John A. Malmgren

1853 Dahlonega mint. Extremely fine	32.00
1859 Dahlonega mint. Very fine	25.00
$1.00 Gold. 1864 Uncirculated	32.75
1865 Perfect brilliant proof	37.00
1866 Brilliant proof	15.25
$5.00 Gold. Georgia. 128 C. 22 Carats. Very good	40.00
$2.50 Gold. Georgia. 64 G. 22 Carats. Extremely fine	45.00
$5.00 North Carolina, C. Bechtler. Strictly fine	385.00
$2.50 C. Bechtler. Very fine	275.00
$1.00 Gold. C. Bechtler. Very fine	10.00
$2.50 Carolina gold. 67 G. 21 Carats. Very good	60.00
$5.00 C. Bechtler at Rutherford. Very fine	20.25
1849 $5.00 Oregon Gold. Fine	120.00
1849 $2.50 Mormon Gold. Very good	72.00
1850 $5.00 Mormon Gold. Very good	35.00
1860 $5.00 Mormon Gold. Very good	30.50
$20.00, 1853 Moffatt & Co. Fine	31.00
$10.00, 1852 Wass, Molitor & Co. Very good	19.25
$10.00 (1849) Miners Bank. Extremely fine	185.00
$10.00, 1852. About fine	105.00
$5.00 1850 Baldwin & Co. Very fine	115.00
$50.00 1851. 887 Thous. Fine	160.00
$50.00 1851 880 Thous. Very fine	125.00
$50.00 1851 887 Thous. Very good	152.00
$50.00 1851 880 Thous. Very good	145.00
$50.00 1852 887 Thous. Fine for coin	140.00
$50.00 1852 887 Thous. Fine	130.00
$5.00, 1849 About fine	32.00
$2.50 1860 Clark & Co. About uncirculated	24.50
$10.00 1860 Clark, Gruber & Co. Fine	60.00
$2.50 1861 Clark, Gruber & Co. Very good	18.00
$20.00 1861 Clark, Gruber & Co. Fine	265.00
1793 Cent. Liberty Cap variety, Crosby 12-L. Very good	12.50
1793 Cent. Crosby 14-K. Rev. weak, Obv. bold	87.50
1794 Cent. Hays 43. Extremely fine	9.25
1795 Cent. Extremely fine	22.25
1795 Cent. Thin planchet. Uncirculated	12.00
1795 Cent. So-called Jefferson head. Good	21.00
1796 Cent. Gilbert C-D. Strictly fine	5.25
1797 Cent. Close date. Uncirculated	27.50
1800 over 1799. Cent. Very fine	8.25
1802 Cent. Extremely fine	6.00
1803 Cent. Small 3. Uncirculated	14.00
1804 Cent. Extremely fine	91.00
1805 Cent. Blunt 1 in date. Fine	6.00
1806 Cent. Extremely fine	8.00
1812 Cent. Uncirculated	10.75
1813 Cent. Uncirculated	15.25
1823 Cent. Re-strike. Bright proof	12.25
1825 Cent. Uncirculated	9.00
1827 Cent. Uncirculated	7.25
1838 Red Proof	17.00
1839 Head of 1840. Uncirculated	6.00
1856 Small Cent. Practically uncirculated	16.00
1863 Bronze Cent, thick planchet. Uncirculated	6.00
1486 Austria, Dollar. Fine for coin	12.25
1913 Two Peso. Zapata coinage. Very fine	3.00
Foreign Gold. 1629 Brunswick Lunneburg. Fine	14.25
1915 Oaxaca, Mexico, Five Pesos. Uncirculated	7.00
1915 Two Pesos. Moneda Provisional Dos Pesos. Uncirculated	4.60

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States and Canada, 50 cents a year; Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, JANUARE, 1918 No. 1

With The Editor

Birthday anniversaries are serious events, and Our Monthly is celebrating its today. We can hardly realize that it has entered upon its ninth year, but it is so. Long ago it learnt to walk and before it was a year old it could stand alone, and today is quite nimble on its feet. It travels long distances and in fact is as much at home in the New England states and the Pacific Coast as in the Middle West. It is no stranger in the great Dominion to our north, and is equally at home on the Seven Seas. The great responsibility of keeping an eye on the young traveller is lessened by the many friends it has made on its trips during the past few years. To all such friends we extend our thanks and trust that their kindness will continue through 1918.

Is Our Monthly to Be Found in Your Public Library?

The Monthly has its friends. A Canadian subscriber has instructed us to forward copies of it during 1918 to two Public Libraries, those at Toronto, Canada, and Lewiston, N. Y. One is somewhat larger than the other, but both are doing the best sort of work. There are many men in large cities and smaller towns who use the Public Library as a study and reading room. Some of these are doubtless interested in coins, others would be if their attention was only properly called to the subject. We commend the example of this subscriber to others and trust it will be copied. There must be many Libraries in this country that would be glad to place the Monthly on file. Try this plan in your own Library.

More Medals for Our Soldiers and Sailors

The American Numismatic Soceity of New York is always to the front in the interest of Numismatics. It is to be greatly commended for the good work it is doing at present in supporting a bill to be introduced into Congress creating more medals for our soldiers and sailors engaged in the present great war. The ambition to win a decoration for military service is a great incentive to the man who is fighting for his country and the freedom and democracy of the world.

Our country is away behind in the matter of medals as rewards for bravery and distinguished conduct in the field. To remedy this want, the bill is to be presented to Congress.

All the nations of Europe fighting at present recognize and reward the valor of their soldiers by bestowing these highly prized distinctions. The soldiers of the British Empire have always the vision of the V. C. (Victoria Cross), first created in 1856, before their eyes. This has two different ribbons, red for the Army and pale blue for the Navy. The intrinsic value is small. It is only a bronze cross made from captured cannon, bearing the words "FOR VALOUR," but the possession of it means much to the recipient, and it is valued alike by soldiers and sailors of all ranks, whether Field Marshal or Admiral—private or able seaman.

Besides the V. C., the British have other honors for bravery. For commissioned officers the D. S. O. (Distinguished Service Order) 1886, and the M. C. (Military Cross) 1914. For non-commissioned officers and men they have the D. C. M. (Distinguished Conduct Medal) 1853. This is awarded for distinguished conduct in the field. The M. M. (Military Medal) 1916. The St. George's Cross, and the Medal of St. George—consist of four classes.

The gallant French have the "Medaille Militaire," 1852; and the "Croix de Guerre," 1915. Soldier and nurse alike can win this Cross, and why not? For the bravest soldier is no braver than the nurse who has won this honor by bravery under fire—tending the wounded while the shells burst overhead.

We trust that the claims of the American nurse will not be overlooked in this respect in the bill to be brought before Congress.

Uncle George's Letter to His Nephew John

In our first volume we published several letters between Uncle George and his nephew John. These attracted considerable attention at the time and were popular with our readers. Uncle George handed out some good advice to John, who received it somewhat respectfully, and when occasion arose, handed a punch or two back with interest in vigorous fashion. The old gentleman did not always have it his own way—neither did John.

We have induced Uncle to start afresh, also John, and an old-time letter will be found elsewhere.

We would call the attention of our readers to a letter from Uncle George to be found on page 68 in our May, 1908, issue:

> "Regarding my own and my nephew's letters, I regret that any of your readers should jump at wrong conclusions. The letters are written in all good humor and are not aimed at any particular men. I am not 'knocking' any particular dealer, and if I write John regarding the practices of a certain class of collectors, I shall be referring to a class, and not to individuals."
>
> UNCLE GEORGE.

We quote the above at his special request.

The Halifax, Nova Scotia, Horror

Te great majority of American collectors know this Canadian city chiefly through the various tokens issued by its merchants over one hundred years ago. It is reported that over three hundred people lost their sight, and a 4.7 gun weighing over one ton was carried four miles away by the force of the explosion. The sympathy of all America is with the stricken city.

The Numismatist. Vol. XXX. No. 12

The Numismatist made an excellent start with this volume last January, and what is better, has kept it up to the last number. Every issue has been full of good things, and American collectors are fortunate indeed in having it for their guide, philosopher, and friend. Every class of collectors have found help within its pages during the past year, and the wonder is how any can do without it. Of especial interest for several issues have been Mr. Allen's papers on Confederate Paper Money. Nothing of equal value on this series has ever appeared before. Vol. XXX has many other articles of value—but to mention all would mean our giving the Index in full.

The Cent Famine in California

The present war has proved too much in California for certain old habits and customs which, since the United States have taken up arms against Germany, have had to bow to the will of Mars.

Foremost among the changes which have come to the Pacific Coast is the one which has given the cent as a new medium of exchange. Heretofore when a person wished to buy something which called for the odd cent he would give the vendor the money in an even amount counting to the next silver coin. To hand a man seventeen cents instead of twenty branded the giver as an Easterner, and the looks which were thrown his way were of such a nature that the mistake on his part would never occur again. But now all is different. The cent has come to the people and they are getting used to it as money, while in the past it was a curiosity and seldom seen outside a collector's cabinet. When the amusement tax went into effect it was found that California had practically no one-cent pieces with which to make change. The tobacco business was the next that called for the small cent, and it called loudly. Business men of all descriptions called to the banks for the long despised but now much sought for coin. The banks had no supply and so could not serve the merchants. Something had to be done; the public were appealed to bring their cents when they went shopping, but the stock of cents was so small that little relief was experienced.

At last, in desperation, the banks offered a bonus on all cents. The result was better but still small. In the end the bonus which was being paid had reached $40 on the $1,000 worth of cents and the general situation improved until the "penny menace" amounted to practically nothing.

The American Numismatic Association

CARL WURTZBACH
Elected President 1917-1918

OBJECTS—Its objects are to encourage and promote the science of numismatics by the acquirement and study of coins, paper money and medals; to cultivate fraternal relations among collectors and students; to encourage and assist new collectors and to foster the interest of youth in the subject; to stimulate and advance affiliations between collectors and kindred organizations in the United States and foreign countries; to acquire and disperse numismatic knowledge; to form and maintain a cabinet of numismatic specimens and a library of numismatic literature for the use and benefit of its members, and to demonstrate the fact that numismatics is an educational, serious and entertaining pursuit.

ORGANIZATION—The American Numismatic Association invites to membership all worthy persons who have a sincere interest in the subject of numismatics, whether they collect coins, medals or paper money; whether advanced or young collectors, or whether interested in the subject without being collectors.

The Association was founded in 1891, and has about 700 active and honorary members in nearly every State in the Union, in Canada, and in several foreign countries. It is an incorporated body, having been granted a Federal Charter by an Act of Congress in 1912.

It is purely a mutual organization. None of its officers receives a salary. From the annual dues and entrance fees the expenses of printing, postage, stationery, etc., are paid.

WALDO C. MOORE
Newly Elected Chairman
Board of Governors

Orgin of the Dollar

The word "dollar" was in our language at least 300 years ago, for it is used by Shakespeare several times. It is supposed that the word was in use in London in the latter part of the sixteenth century, having been brought in by the North German merchants, who managed the trade on the Baltic and in Russia.

"Dollar" appeared first in an English dictionary in 1745. It is a borrowed word, being the German "thaler." The coins issued by the mint in Joachimsthal were called "Joachimsthalers." When other mints were established, the "Joachims" was dropped, and the coins were called simply "thalers."

The dollar was adopted by Congress as the unit of our currency on August 5, 1785. It was to contain 375.64 grains of pure silver; but when the mint was established in 1792, the requirement was reduced to 371.25 grains of pure silver. The coniage of dollars began in 1794.

A Letter from Uncle George to His Nephew John

My Dear John:

I was much pleased to receive your letter of recent date and learn that you have again turned to collecting and will start afresh from where you left off. In your case it will be all the easier as you retained your collection, wisely deciding not to offer it as a sacrifice on the numismatic altar. No matter how wisely you buy your coins, it is seldom you make any considerable amount of profit when you send them to a cataloguer for sale at auction. Of course the cataloguer has to live—he claims so anyhow—but between you and me, I cannot always see the reason. I think he is somewhat prejudiced on this point, but if he honestly believes it, he will manage to do so somehow and we shall have to help him, if we wish to continue our collecting.

Some of your questions are too deep for me, John. Life is serious enough, so is coin collecting, but there is no need to go below your depth. We should always keep our head above the ground. For this reason I hesitate to embark upon the academic and scientific discussion of the numismatic problems you invite me to. Who am I, indeed, that I should rush in where angels fear to tread? No, I am not one of that class. Ask me something easy, John, and I will do my darndest, but it's not fair to task me where all the 1804 U. S. dollars come from, or if the present war will release more specimens for the benefit of American profiteers. Time alone will tell; I refuse to prophesy.

But if they are striking these in Germany, our Government should make it one of the principal conditions of peace at the conclusion of the war, that in future, all U. S. dollars of this date coming from that country should bear a counterstamp—MADE IN GERMANY.

There's one thing in particular I would advise you, John; don't in your new start try to force the pace too much. You have neglected coins for several years past and must not expect to make up for this neglect in a couple of months. Take your time and keep your wind and you will come in a winner, or at least gain a place. If you make the pace too swift at the start you will soon get tired, and when a collector gets to feel that way it's all up with him. The undertaker will soon be called in, either for him or his collection, and his name will be Ichabod on the mailing lists of the numismatic experts. You will also find some difference in the values of some coins. This is due to fashion, John, for Dame Fashion figures in numismatics almost as much as she does in deciding the length of a lady's skirt. Funny thing about these skirts. I asked your Aunt the other day whatever she was wearing such a short skirt for. "Why, George," she said, "short skirts are all the fashion now." And so, in answer to your question about your old favorite series—the Jackson tokens, I tell you that Jackson tokens are not fashionable in high class numismatic circles today. Do not ask me why this should be so—be content with the fact—it is. To my mind these are one of the most interesting series we have, far more so than our cents and half-cents. The Jacksons offer such diversity of type and design, and the political side looms up so largely that the study of them will more than repay the collector for all the time and money spent on them. This series has been greatly neglected by the numismatic writers of this country; they have confined their attention to our cents and half-cents, our mint patterns, our paper currency, our medals, and to foreign series, but as the Jacksons were not fashionable, did not move in the best society—they

have been left severely alone. However, I hear that we may hope for better things in the near future. Meanwhile this is a grand time to collect them, they sell for little.

You ask me if coin values have increased, and if so—in what particular series. Well, good coins fetch, as a rule, more today than they ever have. Cents in choice condition are worth more than double what they were seven or eight years ago. But don't be afraid, the cataloguers will post you on all these points. They all give straight tips now and again in their catalogues on values of coins of more or less value that they are offering, so you need not fear sending ridiculously low bids. When you see it stated that Spinks ask eighteen shillings for a coin you are tempted to send in a bid of thirty-seven cents for, don't be discouraged. Just double your contemplated bid—sit tight, keep cool and hope for the best.

I do not know the dealer you mention personally, but I am inclined to think he's an optimist as far as the prices of his coins are concerned. He certainly was when he asked fifteen dollars for an 1850 Bank of Upper Canada penny just because it has a pellet between the two ends of the cornucopiae. Now if it had been an attempted puncture instead of a pellet, I could have fixed it myself, but a real pellet requires a master hand.

Another cataloguer will inform you that a coin he is offering in his sale is valued by Scott at $2. Very kind of Scott, I am sure, and it says much for his good-natured optimism, and the odds are that the coin in question felt highly complimented, but this particular coin did not belong to Scott. What right had he to butt in and flatter it so outrageously? You lose all chance of getting it for nineteen cents—and at once become a pessimist.

I have not seen ————, the collector you ask about, for some time. I had to drop him; he was not a bad sort of a man, but he could not keep his mouth closed. You know what I mean—he would talk. If I had a coin he wanted, or he had one I wished for, and an offer was made—he would tell it all over the town. I have my own ideas about the wisdom of repeating things said and prices asked, to others. If you cannot do a man any good, do not try to do him harm. More harm is done by foolish babbling talk among collectors than by anything else. I spoke to him about it several times, but he took no notice and continued to talk—talk, so in self-defense I had to drop him. He does not understand it to this day, but I get on a whole lot better and he goes on his way bleating like a regular innocent lamb.

By the way—how are you off for copper cents in your State? We had quite a serious scarcity of them here. I attribute it to the speculative selfishness of collectors and dealers who are cornering these Lincoln memorials, thinking of future generations of collectors. The charitable and religious public are also to blame, as many of them keep a large supply on hand for such purposes. The cent famine, however, offers grand advertising opportunities for store-keepers, country merchants, and financial institutions who seek the publicity that might be secured by an issue of script for this value.

Sorry I cannot send you a copy of the last Mint Report. Write to the Director of the Mint, Treasury Department, Bureau of the Mint, Washington, D. C., asking for a copy and it will be forwarded to you gratis. I cannot understand why collectors do not make more use of this Report. It is the highest authority on all the many subjects treated in it. It is free—and worth much more than a three-cent stamp.

UNCLE GEORGE.

Coinage of England During the Rebellion 1641-52

New Information as Submitted to the British Numismatic Society

By F. WILLSON YEATES.

At the October meeting of the British Numismatic Society, Mr. F. Willson Yeates contributed a treatise on the coinage of Ireland during the rebellion of 1641-52 in which he reviewed the whole subject in the light of certain fresh documentary evidence. He submitted that this necessitated a reconsideration of the accepted attributions of the series, almost in their entirety, and offered the following rearrangement as the logical solution of the questions now raised:—

To the Confederated Catholics under their proclamation of November 15th, 1642, in addition to the Kilkenny halfpenny and farthing—the crown, half-crown, shilling, and sixpence struck on the square flans, but "of the ordinary stamp."

To the Lords Justices and Council of Ireland on behalf of the King and the English Parliament—the "Inchiquin" issues, 1642-3, and the "Ormond" issues, 1643.

To the Council of Munster on behalf of the English Parliament under an order of March 20th, 1645-6—the copper coinage of the four towns, Cork, Youghal, Kinsale and Bandon, which was to be current in the "garrisons"; also the Cork shilling and sixpence.

To Colonel Michael Jones, commander of the forces of the Parliament in Ireland and deputy governor of Dublin Castle, in 1646-47—the "rebel" crown and half-crown.

To Lord Ormond on behalf of the royalists under an order signed by him at Kilkenny on August 8th, 1649, directing Thomas Reade to erect the King's mint there or elsewhere as he should find convenient for coining gold and silver according to the way, manner, and form formerly used in England—the "blacksmith's" half-crown.

To Lord Ormond on behalf of the royalists under an order signed by Prince Charles, as King, at Jersey on November 13th, 1649, to send officers and dies of the royal Irish mint to such port or place in Ireland as Prince Rupert, "admiral of all our ships now at sea," should direct, for the coining of the "bullion and forraigne coyne" in the prizes taken by him "and to be there put into money"—the "Dublin" crown and half-crown.

In illustration of his paper, Mr. Yeates exhibited a specimen in copper of the half-crown struck upon the square flan, also casts and drawings of various coins and seals referred to in his arguments.

The President thought that the order of 1649 to coin in the "form formerly used in England" might explain certain coins of rough workmanship which had hitherto been included in the English series as imitations of issues from the Tower mint, and showed four shillings of the class.

Pennies by the Billion

National City Bank of New York Cannot Understand Reported Shortage.

In a statement issued yesterday the National City Bank of New York said the scarcity of pennies reported from various parts of the country was the more surprising in view of the fact that the Government coinage of one-cent pieces had been much larger in recent years than in any earlier period of the history of the country. The bank's compilation showed that more than one billion one-cent coins had been manufactured by the Government and distributed to the people during the last dozen years.

According to the banks' compilation, the number of one-cent coins manufactured by the mints of the United States from 1793 to the end of the fiscal year 1916 was 2,804,000,000, while the number issued in the last decade alone was, in round numbers, one billion. Even in the single fiscal year 1916 the number of one-cent pieces was 101,230,317, while in the high record year, 1910, the total number turned out was 152,846,218. The number of pieces coined never touched the 100,000,000 line prior to 1907, the total for that year being 108,138,618, the annual average since that time having been nearly 100,000,000 per year.

The bank estimates that the number of one-cent peices coined from the beginning of the Government to date would, even if all were in existence and circulation, allow for each individual about 27 one-cent pieces. Of course, the number actually available is far less than this, for it is quite probable that out of the two and three-quarter billion one-cent pieces coined by the Government not more than about two billions are now in existence, or at least in circulation, making the present average per capita for all the people of the United States of about 20 one-cent pieces.

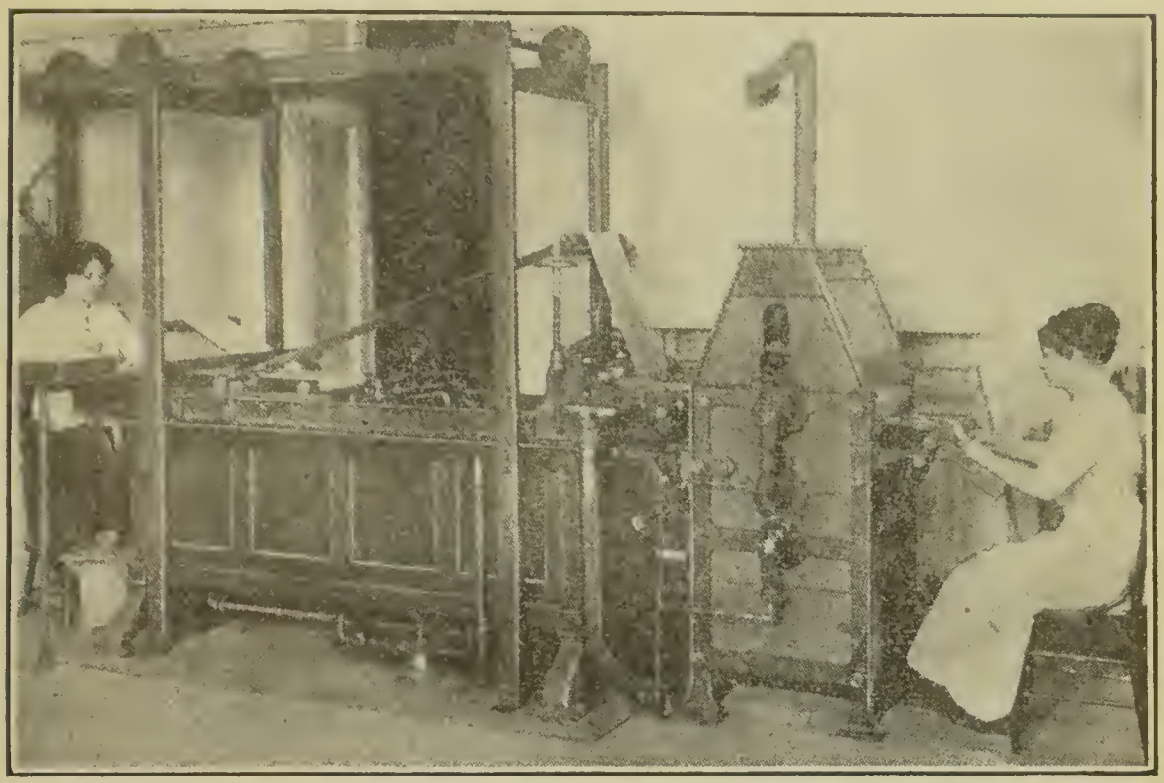
"The face value of the 'token coins' issued by the Government (the one-cent pieces and the five-cent nickels) is, of course, much greater than the value of the metal which they contain," the bank's statement said. "In fact, the profit on the manufacture of these coins, together with a slight profit on the manufacture of the minor silver coins (ten, twenty-five, and fifty cent pieces) is more than enough to pay the running expenses of the mint."

—New York Times.

Coin Shortage in Philippines

Manila.—There is a shortage of coins throughout the Philippine Islands. The Philippine National Bank is issuing paper bills of the denomination of 10 and 20 centavos as a temporary relief.

Money Laundry for Tramp Currency



This is one of the laundry machines that wash the dirty paper money you send to the Redemption Division of the U. S. Treasury. A dollar bill goes into this machine looking like a tramp and comes out looking like a dandy.

Each one of these machines washes, sizes, dries and irons 35,000 bills daily. Together they save the government $300 every 24 hours.

Only about 10 per cent of the money sent in for redemption can be washed.

Some banks will take nothing but new notes, while others insist on the laundered money, saying the washed bills do not stick together and are easier to handle.

The washing machines are quite simple. They are operated by electricity. One girl feeds the dirty paper into the washer and another catches the clean notes as they come from the ironer.

The notes are laid on a moving belt made of wet blanket material, are carried on until they pass under a second belt from above, and thus encased between two pieces of cloth they pass through rollers in a tank of soapy water, where they are cleansed and sterilized, then through rinsing water and so on through hot rollers which dry and iron them. Thus there is no chance for laceration.

Experts watch closely for counterfeits. It is a remarkable sight to see the expert counters at work, their fingers working like lightning as they count 20,000 notes apiece daily.

Besides the several machines in use at Washington, there are four in the sub-treasury at New York, two at Chicago, one in Boston and one in Philadelphia.

—Bank Notes.

A Few of the Prices Realized at the Sale of the Collections of Judge Jonn A. Truax and Mr. G. A. Alenius

Sold by B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 12, 1917.

1864 Gold Dollar. Extremely fine, sharp	$20.25
1883 $3.00 Gold. Extremely fine	6.00
1879 $4.00 Gold. Brilliant proof	75.00
1851 $50.00 Gold. 880 THOUS. Very fine	110.00
1858 Silver Dollar. Proof	30.50
1878 Twenty-Cents. Brilliant proof	6.00
1877 3c Piece, Nickel. Proof	2.35
1873 2c Piece. Brilliant red proof	2.75
Colonial, U. S. A. Bar Cent. Very good	5.35
Kentucky Cent. Extremely fine	2.10
Jackson Cent, 1834. Ship sailing to left. Fine	4.50
Numismatic Book. "The Early Coins of America," 1875, S. S. Crosby. Perfect condition.	18.50
Foreign Gold. Afghanistan, A. D. 200, 30 Abassi. Good	5.00
England. Henry VI. Angel. Fine	8.00
Jaes I. Gold Unite. Very fine	8.00
Victoria, 1887 Jubilee, Two Sovereign. Very fine	10.00
Scotland, James VI., Sword and Scepter. Fine	15.00
France, Louis XIII. 1641 Louis d'Or. Uncirculated	8.10
Japan, Cobang. Very good	12.00
Nuremburg, One thirty-second Ducat. Uncirculated	3.50
Papal, Michael IV. Solidus. Fine	7.00
1744 Sede Vacante, 1 Dopia. Very fine	7.35
Poland, 1677, John III. Ducat. Semi-proof	11.25
Russia, 1762, Peter III. 1 Imperial. Fine	15.50
Ancient Gold. Rome, Nero, Aureus. Fair	24.50
1854 $3.00 Gold. Dahlonega Mint. Fine	42.00
1845 $2.50 Gold. New Orleans Mint. Fine	35.00
1852 $2.50 Gold. Dahlonega Mint. Vey fine	32.00
1849 $5.00 Gold. Moffat & Co. Extremely fine	9.00
1853 $20.00 Gold. 884 THOUS. Extremely fine	81.00
$5.00 C. Bechtler at Rutherford. Very fine	36.00
Colorado $2.50 Gold, 1860, Clark & Co. Practically Unc.	22.25
1861 $5.00 Clark, Gruber & Co. Uncirculated	9.25
1900 Lesher Dollar. Number 7. Good	18.00
1900 As last, No. 75. Very good	15.75
1900 As last, but numbered 926. Very fine	10.25
1901 Lesher Dollar, No. 120. Extremely fine	13.25
Large Copper Cents. 1793 Wreath type. Extremely fine	36.00
1803 Cent. Small 3, small fracton. Uncirculated	10.25
1803 Cent. Small 3, large fraction. Extremely fine	8.40
1813 Extremely fine	13.25
1856 Flying Eagle Cent. Absolutely perfect	10.00
Half Cents, 1793. Crosby 1-A. Strictly fine	12.00
1796 Variety with pole. Strictly very good	110.00
1802 over 1800. Very fine	8.00
1849 Small date. Proof	51.25
1739 Swedish Half Daler. Good	8.00
1751 Swedish 1 Daler. Very good	10.50
1724 Swedish Four Daler. Extremely fine	22.00
1652 Oak Tree Shilling. Good	7.25
Brunswick Luneburg, 1589 Crown. Very good	5.40

NUMISMATIC RANDOM REELS

BY DELMONT L. ANGELL

That the early impressions of a youngster are the most vivid through the course of a natural life is known to all, and when an impression makes for a boy's betterment, it will have its reflex in after years along much the same line suggested by the early impression. I was once asked how old I was when I first became interested in collecting coins. I think I was about 12—just about in the newspaper carrying age—and when many of the large copper cents were still in circulation. Anyway, I had shown interest enough to attract the notice of a Mr. Myers, a traveling man who represented a wholesale grocery firm in Albany, N. Y. I remember he summoned me to his hotel in my home town and devoted a couple of hours to showing me a case full of coins, describing them as minutely and clearly as it as possible to a boy of that age. Now that simple little act left its impress on the writer, who has tried at various times to emulate the example set by Mr. Myers. Certainly, there was a man constructed on broad lines as an instructor of youth!

◇ ◇ ◇

Along this line of thought I once asked a collector how he derived pleasure out of his coins and what he did to gain it. Now this man is in big business, and as a man he measures bigger than his business, so his answer was rather startling to say the least. He hesitated a moment before replying to my question and then said:' "Why, the only way I can describe the deriving of pleasure out of my coins is the fact that I play with them much the same as a child would play with a new toy novelty or trick puzzle!" An original answer which contains much truth. How many of the readers of this magazine have sought a little diversion with a tray of coins after a hard day's grind at the store or office, or after the perplexity of figuring out how to fill the stomachs and coal bins and meet a general uptrend of overhead expense? I know one—and one who not only gets needed mental diversion, but a lot of pleasure for good measure. Reader, act on this suggestion some time!

◇ ◇ ◇

Many of the oldtime New Yorkers must remember the middle-aged man who for many years manicured the sidewalk in front of St. Paul's Church for the privilege of having a little stand at the corner of Fulton street and Broadway. He filled orders for rubber stamps for many of the tenants of various office buildings in that vicinity, and would sometimes display a few U. S. cents in various stages of decomposition and other coins as well. It was quite as natural to look for him as it was to dodge the horse cars that still traversed Fulton street and held up traffic on Broadway.

He had one quite human little weakness and that was for the very excellent old ale dispensed at Brosnan's Ale House on Fulton street, made famous for several reasons, one of which was that it was the favorite rendezvous of Garibaldi and his cohorts prior to their departure for Italy. I had noticed an 1815 cent (altered, of course) on one of his boards a few days previously and asked him what became of it. He informed me that he had imbibed one too many at Brosnan's a few nights before and felt pretty ugly the next morning. A man came along as he was dusting the sidewalk and asked him the price of

that patticular coin. As an index to the way he felt, and wanting to say something nasty, he answered, without turning his head, $25.00! The inquirer pulled out a roll of bills as big as a carpet and "sloughed" off the amount, turned on his heel and departed. The rubber stamp man said when he recovered from the shock, it was time to go back to Brosnan's!

◇ ◇ ◇

While Milwaukee has been made famous by something other than coin collectors, the town has a novelty in the way of a dandy little "goat" collector. This new variety in the ranks of collectors asked the conductor of this column if he could spare a few gold dollars from his collection which he desired for a special purpose. He did not desire to pay any premium on them as they were to be made into a bracelet for his wife! I informed the gentleman that it did not matter for whose wife he got the gold dollars he would have to pay a premium of many dollars if he were to obtain them. I related the incident to an employe of a local bank and he expressed no surprise. He merely said as a general rule a conservative Milwaukee investor wanted to see two in sight for every one he invested. So from that viewpoint his proffer was liberal.

Art of the Two-Dollar Bill

The current discussion relative to the new one-dollar bills and their similarity in some respects to the five-dollar bills lead me to a closer inspection of some of the bills of other denominatoins. Perhaps not very many people who daily handle the two-dollar bill of the series of 1917, issued by act of Congress March 3, 1863, are aware of the fact that this bill illustrates the United States Capitol, its unimproved grounds, the character of the vehicles and the costumes, etc., that prevailed fifty-four years ago, the date of the authorization of this bill.

Take a good magnifying glass and look at the picture. Note the condition of the Capitol grounds, the old two-horse car coming up Capitol hill, the old-fashioned one and two-horse carriages, the man on horseback, the dog running across the Capitol plaza, the women with their generous crinolines, the men with their tall silk hats and odd coats and the children at play. Invisible to the naked eye, the glass shows at the northwest corner of the Capitol a dozen old-style buildings and two church spires. In the light of the changed conditions of today the picture is more than an interesting artistic engraving—it has much historic value. —Washington Star.

New York Numismatic Club

Regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held at the Park Avenue Hotel, Friday evening, December 14, 1917, with President Boyd presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Beatty, Beesley, Belden, Boyd, Butler, Elder, Frey, Heaton, Newell, Proskey, Reilly, Southwick, Smith, Swanson, Valentine, Wood and Wormser, and as guests, Messrs. I. L. Steinman and Mr. Schmall.

After the roll call the minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

The Secretary reported the receipt of one magazine and of a contribution by corresponding member Cagiati of his latest publication on "La Monete del Reame delle due Sicilie La Zecca di Napoli."

He also read greetings from Messrs. Thorson and De Lagerberg.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Cagiati for his valuable and interesting gift was passed and the Secretary was instructed to express the thanks of the Club to Mr. Cagiati.

The Treasurer submitted a report.

Mr. Frey, in behalf of the Publication Committee, reported that its work was up to date and that he would like to publish illustrations of the collection of Jenny Lind medals shown by Mr. Smith at the last meeting.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. All the officers and committees put up by the nominating committee being the only candidates, the Secretary was empowered to cast a ballot in favor of their unanimous election in each instance. Accordingly, the following officers were elected for the year 1918:

For President:

Dr. D. W. Valentine.

For Vice-President:

Albert R. Frey.

For Secretary and Treasurer:

Thomas L. Elder.

For Executive Committee:

F. C. C. Boyd, J. M. Swanson, Moritz Wormser, Elliot Smith.

For Membership Committee:

Bauman L. Belden, Edgar H. Adams, Alfred E. Davison, Howland Wood, David Proskey.

For Publication Committee:

F. C. C. Boyd, Rud Kohler, Howland Wood.

For Medallic Art Committee:

J. M. Swanson, W. Gedney Beatty, J. de Lagerberg, J. Sanford Saltus, Dudley Butler.

Mr. Boyd thanked the officers of the committees and officers during 1917 for their efforts and assistance and turned over the chair to the new President, Dr. D. W. Valentine, who presided for the remainder of the meeting.

It was decided to have as subject for the January meeting, "Coins of the Free Cities of the Hanseatic League, Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck."

The President appointed Mr. Elder curator for year 1918.

Greetings were extended by the President to our guests, Messrs. Steinman and Schmall, as well as our new member, Mr. Southwick, and all three responded in turn.

There were no formal exhibits set for the meeting, but among the interesting items, Mr. Smith showed a composition metal Kopeck, issued by Germany for the occupied districts in Poland with obverse inscription "District of the Commander-in-chief in the East."

Mr. Proskey showed a fractional currency cent issued by the Scranton Clearing House Association and being "good as deposit for this amount if presented on or before July 1st, 1918."

MORITZ WORMSER, Secretary.

Rochester Numismatic Association

Hotel Rochester, Tuesday, December 4, 1917.

The 135th meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association was called to order by Vice President H. H. Yawger, the following members being present: Messrs. Woodbury, L. G. Amberg, Horner, Maunovry, Handler, Yawger, Crandall, Savage, Emerich, Koeb, Barrodaile, W. H. Amberg, Hicks, Woolsey, King, Loizeau, Burling. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Mr. Koeb had on exhibition a proof of our 6th Anniversary Medal with portrait of President Fred E. Merritt. The proof portrait shows the same characteristic thoroughness as to detail etc., displayed by Mr. J. A. Koeb in the cutting and designing of all our previous medals, and full credit is given to him for his ability.

The application of Mr. A. N. Wolff for membership in the R. N. A., presented at last meeting, was reported on favorably and Mr. Wolff was duly elected to membership in our Association.

The following applications for membership were presented by Mr. L. G. Amberg: Mr. Geo. A. Schug, 296 Avenue A, and Mr. Wm. F. Sunday, 49 Rialto Street. These were referred to the Membership Committee for investigation.

A letter was received and read, from Rev. Paul Moore Strayer, Chairman of the Y. M. C. A. War Fund Committee, thanking the R. N. A. for the $30.00 realized from auction sale at our last meeting, of a $1.00 Massachusetts State bank note.

The date of the Fifth Annual Dinner of the R. N. A. has been set for Tuesday evening, January 22nd, and Dr. Jeremiah Zimmerman of Syracuse is to be asked to be the speaker of the evening.

Motion was made and carried that a $5.00 gold piece be presented to Miss Lorscheider in slight appreciation for her assistance given the Vice President during the past year.

Mr. Loizeau stated that upon inquiry at one of the Branches of our Public Library he found a good representative lot of books on numismatics. The library official very kindly furnished Mr. Loizeau a list of these books, which will be filed with the Secretary for reference and convenience of the members.

Meeting adjourned to Tuesday, December 18th.

Hotel Rochester, Tuesday, December 18, 1917.

The 136th meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association was called to order by President Fred E. Merritt. Members present: Messrs. Putnam, Yawger, Borradaile, Koeb, L. G. Aberg, Woodbury, Crandall, Maunovry, Burling, Sunday, Horner, Hicks, W. H. Amberg, Handler, Plumb, Savage, Bauer, Merritt, Loizeau, King, Gillette, Haringx, French. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The applications of Geo. A. Schug and W. F. Sunday, for membership in the R. N. A., were reported on satisfactorily and both gentlemen were duly elected.

Report of Treasurer C. T. Borradaile for the year 1917 was read by him, showing cash on hand at this time of $307.96, of which $150.00 is invested in U. S. Liberty Bonds. The report was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The Secretary's report of proceedings of the R. N. A. for the past year was read, accepted and ordered placed on file.

A splendid enlargement of a photograph of the A. N. A. Convention last August, taken in front of the Memorial Art Gallery with a small camera, was presented to the R. N. A. by Mr. Foster C. Lardner of Providence, R. I., with his compliments. A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Lardner.

The Sixth Annual Dinner of the R. N. A. will be given at the Hotel Rochester on Tuesday evening, January 22, 1918. Dr. Jeremiah Zimmerman will deliver the same address he made before the American Numismatic Society of New York, his subject being "Luther and the Reformation in the Light of the Numismatic Monuments," and the Doctor assured the Committee that no man of whatever church need be afraid to be present. All the members of the A. N. A., their wives and friends are cordially invited to attend.

Election of officers being next in order, on motion of Mr. Gillette the Secretary was ordered to cast one vote for:

H. H. Yawger, President;

Sigmund Handler, Vice President;

W. H. Amberg, Secretary;

C. T. Borradaile, Treasurer.

The foregoing were then duly installed as officers for the ensuing year.

An auction sale of R. N. A. Medals, Gold Dollars, and Cents was held during the evening, Mr. Merritt acting as auctioneer.

Mr. F. B. King very kindly loaned the R. N. A., for its exhibit at the Rochester Municipal Museum, a McKinley Gold Dollar.

After the meeting the members present enjoyed a lunch given them by the outgoing officers.

Meeting adjourned to January 8, 1918.

SIGMUND HANDLER, Secretary.

An Invitation

Through the columns of this publication, the Rochester Numismatic Association, of Rochester, N. Y., are extending to their friends a most cordial invitation to be present at its Sixth Annual Dinner, at 7 o'clock on Tuesday evening, January 22nd, at the Hotel Rochester. The guests are invited to bring their wives and lady friends, and a most enjoyable time is promised. The Committee of Arrangements have reported that they were fortunate enough to secure as the speaker of the evening Dr. Jeremiah Zimmerman, of the faculty of the Syracuse University, with whom most of the members of the A. N. A. are acquainted, and therefore nothing further need be said concerning his entertaining powers. As usual, the dinner is to be a very informal affair, just a good time all around from the time the dinner is served (seven o'clock sharp) until the last song is sung. It is requested that all wishing to attend notify H. H. Yawger, 78 Linden Street, Rochester, N. Y., as far in advance of the date as possible how many places they wish to reserve, so the proper arrangements may be made.

Chicago Numismatic Society

The November meeting of Branch One, A. N. A., was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Friday, November 2, 1917. The members present were: Messrs. Kelly, Josephson, Jonas, Carey, Ripstra, Bohrisch, Lawless, Wilson, and Davis.

The election of officers will be held at the December meeting, and it was decided to hold a member's auction at the January meeting. Coins are to be sent to Mr. Carey for cataloging.

The following exhibits were shown:

By Mr. Wilson: Greek copper of Ptolemy VII and Cleopatra, and of Cleopatra Selene.

By Mr. Davis: Franklin Press cent, Chalmers Annapolis shilling, and a penny of Henry III.

By Mr. Josephson: Mexican silver piece, size of a dollar, dated 1914, containing a gold plug, and stamped for two pesos, and the following gold pieces: 100 Francs, Monaco, 1884; 80 Lira, Sardinia; Austrian Ducat, 1730, and a Ducat struck for Bohemia, 1732.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Brown were unable to be present, but sent their exhibits. Mr. Williams sent a 20 Peso gold piece of the new Mexican issue and Mr. Brown sent 5 and 20 Heller pieces of neeessity money struck in German East Afriea.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

Mintage of Coins Breaks all Records

Washington, Dec. 8.—Unprecedented war demand for eoins resulted in the mintage of more money during the year ending July 1 than in any year of history, said Director of the Mint Raymond T. Baker, in his annual report issued today.

A total of 406,000,000 coins worth $25,445,000 were manufactured at the Philadelphia, San Francisco and Denver mints, or nearly three times more than in the preceding year. More than half, or 213,500,000 of the new coins were one-cent pieces, 87,500,000 were dimes and 76,000,000 were nickels. Profit on coinage amounted to $10,478,000.

"I hope they don't make any further efforts to make our money artistic."

"Why?"

"Every time they bring out a new coin it buys less than its predeeessor."

"So you admit having been engaged in making counterfeit bills?" said the magistrate to a man arrested in Wyoming.

"Yes, your honor," responded the eulprit, "and I thought it was all right. You see, the supply of the genuine article is so very, very short."

"Say, teacher, my brother found a counterfeit dollar," announced Johnny.

"How do you know it was a eounterfeit?" inquired the teaeher.

"Because it didn't have an eagle on it or 'God bless our home.'"

—Bank Notes.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States and Canada, 50 cents a year; Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, FEBRUARY, 1918 No. 2

With The Editor

Canada's New and Artistic One-Dollar Bill

The new one-dollar bills are now in circulation in Canada. They are of very artistic design, green in color, and from a pictorial point of view are an improvement on the old bills. On the front is a medallion showing a portrait of the Princess Patricia of Connaught, daughter of King George's uncle, the Duke of Connaught, who was Governor General of Canada when the war started. The first regiment to leave Canada for the war is known as the "Princess Patricia's." They went to France in December, 1914. The regimental color was made by the Princess, and the Patricia's are the only regiment in the British Army that carries its colors with it wherever they go, even into the front line trenches. Of the one thousand and sixty-six men who originally went over with the Patricia's there are only between twenty and thirty of them still fighting with the regiment.

Canada is proud of the Princess, and she is proud of the undying glory the regiment has won on the blood-stained fields of Flanders.

Jerusalem Free From Turkish Rule

For nearly thirteen centuries, with relatively brief intervals, the Holy City has been in Mussulman hands, and for four hundred years Turkish sultans have been its lords. Its capture, or "Deliverance" by the British General Allenby will be hailed with delight by many millions throughout the world. "The scattered Jews will have a prospect of returning as a free people to their nation at home, and a new order will be established founded on ideals of righteousness and justice."

It is interesting to recall the fact that the capture of Jerusalem occurred on the Hebrew date the twenty-fifth day of Kislev, the anniversary of the day two thousand and seventy years before when Judas Maccabaeus conquered Jerusalem and purged the temple of Greek idolatry. It is the first of an eight-day feast that has been observed by the Jews ever since.

Coins and Medals on Luther and the Reformation

We were obliged to omit a number of the usual items from this issue in order to be able to publish Mr. Wormser's excellent article complete in this issue, which we believe will meet with the approval of our readers.

Luther and the Reformation, Illustrated on Coins and Medals

By MORITZ WORMSER

On October 31st last,—some authorities give it as November 1st,—there was celebrated the Fourth Centennial of the event which is generally considered as the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation, when Luther nailed his famous 95 theses or propositions upon the door of the Church of the Castle at Wittenberg in Saxony. In fact, of course, in this action by the young Augustine monk and university professor, popular ideas which had been developing for more than a century not only in his own country, Germany, but in all Christian domains, notably England as well, found their crystalization and a concrete expression, just as subsequently great reformers in other countries were to follow in Luther's steps or to arrive at similar conclusions and separatist theories by their own mental and religious evolutionary processes.

No. 1, Saxony, Frederick the Wise, Double Medallic Thaler, 1514.

The fact that the popular mind was prepared for a religious awakening, revival and reform, by the spread of education among the masses hitherto held in intellectual slavery by the Church of Rome, through the rapid progress of the printer's art, and was in potential revolt against the excesses, political, mental and moral, of the Holy See, made it easy for the doctrines of Luther to spread rapidly and find many adherents among the ruling princes as well as among their lowliest subjects and even among the clergy and hierarchy themselves.

No. 2, Saxony, Frederick the Wise, Thaler, no date.

The scope of our paper does not permit a review of Luther's life or all the details of contemporary history, and we must rapidly pass over these,

although they would prove most interesting; but those who wish to look into them more closely will have little trouble in finding ample material on the subject. The events of the Reformation left their imprint upon the history of the three centuries following its beginning, and to some extent every national policy and development, the rise and fall of nations, can be traced to this religious motive or its repression. It would not be fair to all the great minds

No. 3, Saxony, John George, Triple Thaler, 1539.

of this time, if we should single out Luther as the subject of our consideration; for the Swiss reformers, Zwingli and Calvin, the Englishman Wyckliff, the Bohemian predecessor of Luther, Huss,—all of these and many more,—have been the pioneers in taking religion out of the hands of an elect caste, in

No. 4, Smalcaldian League, John George of Saxony and Philip of Hesse, Thaler, 1543.

spreading it among the people, and in nationalizing it and making out of it a reality instead of a mystery.

No. 5, Smalcaldian League, City of Brunswick, Thaler, 1546.

Therefore it need not surprise us, when at a time when there was no daily press which would pass from home to home and town to town, the history of the movement and its separate events should find frequent expression in the one medium which had the widest circulation, namely the coin of the realm and the medal, and that being our special field, we shall find it absorbing and instructive to examine some of the Numismatic monuments of the Reformation. For the ones which we are showing here we do not claim that they are either representative or in any sense complete, as the numbers issued were great so that books have been filled with their descriptions, but perhaps they will succeed in arousing an interest in the reader and point to him the way for new fields as outlets for his collecting ambitions.

No. 6, Anabaptists of Munster, Thaler, 1534.

We have tried to show only such coins and medals as have a direct bearing upon the Reformation, either in a religious or economical sense, and have eliminated from our field for instance, all those having reference to the many wars that related only indirectly to religious causes, especially for instance the Thirty Years' War. Our principal object has been to pick out Numismatic reminders of Luther's own history, and of the Reformation and its principal events as such.

The first and second specimens show very fine portraits of Luther's Protector, Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony. He is the German Prince to whom the Imperial crown had been offered when Emperor Maximilian died, but who, doubtful of his own strength, declined it in favor of Charles V. Yet

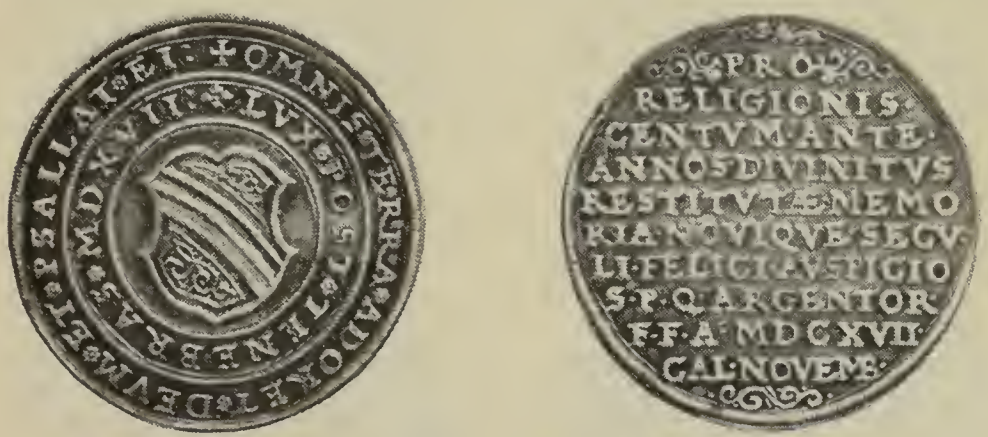
No. 7, Anabaptists of Munster, Half Thaler, no date.

he was strong enough to prove the powerful protector of Luther, when under the ban of the Pope, and his power and influence in the German Empire saved Luther when he appeared before the Emperor and the diet of Worms, and

restrained the Emperor from venting the wrath of the Church upon the fearless reformer. Both specimens are evidently struck by the same die-cutter, and are of similar design, and these and similar pieces of smaller size were given as presents by the Elector to dignitaries and courtiers, when he attended the sessions of the diet. In fact they were struck to commemorate his holding the office of vicar of the Emperor. (Ills. Nos. 1 and 2.)

No. 8, Anabaptists of Munster, Thaler, no date.

Coin No. 3 shows a very fine portrait of another strong Saxon supporter of Luther, John Frederick the Magnanimous, the leader of the Lutherans in the War of the League of Smalcald, when the Lutherans' cause was badly defeated, and nearly oppressed. At the Battle of Mühlberg in 1547, this Elector was captured by Emperor Charles V. and the traitorous Duke Maurice of



No. 9, Strassburg, Thaler, 1617.

Saxony, and in spite of the Emperor's promises of amnesty, he was held a captive for five years, after he had been deprived of the electoral dignity which was transferred to Maurice and his Albertinian line, as a reward for his loyalty to the Emperor. This specimen, a triple crown, commemorates the redemption by John Frederick of the burgraviate of Magdeburg, which previously had been pledged with another German Prince as security for a loan. The Elector's device "My Hope is in the Lord" is expressive of his piety.

No. 4 of our coins also has reference to these same events, as it is a crown struck by John Frederick jointly with Landgrave Philipp of Hesse, and is generally known as the Thaler of the Smalcaldian League. Philipp suffered the same fate as his Saxon brother-in-arms, but his fate seems so much more unjust, as he had voluntarily surrendered himself to the Emperor after the defeat of his ally and had been promised his freedom before doing so.

As a Numismatic evidence of the variety of the forces constituting the Smalcaldian League, we have in No. 5 another so-called "Smalcaldian Triumph-Thaler," issued in 1546 by the Free City of Brunswick, depicting on the reverse the Resurrection, with one of the oft-recurring mottoes of the Lutherans, quoted from the Bible, "The word of the Lord endureth forever."

No. 10, Strassburg, Square Thaler, 1617.

One of the effects of the Reformation and Luther's preaching was a series of uprisings in various parts of Germany, chiefly among the peasants and the suppressed lower classes as well as the spread of dissenting doctrines, sects and teachings which were by no means approved even by the rebellious reformers any more than the Church of Rome. The best known of these latter was the rise of the sect of the Anabaptists, despised and reviled by older historians on account of the social excesses and cruelties of their followers, but by more recent investigators recognized as possessing considerable merit in their doctrines which were the precursors and foundations of sects existing

No. 11, Magdeburg, Thaler, 1617.

to-day. Under John Von Leyden, Matthys, Knipperdolling and Knechting in 1533, they gained possession of the City of Munster in Westphalia after the expulsion of the Bishop; John Von Leyden was set up as "King of Zion"; and this City remained under their cruel, yet religiously inspired rule until 1535, when an army composed of both Catholic and Protestant princes of the Empire put an end to it with equal cruelty, visited upon the leaders and followers of this belief.

Coins Nos. 6, 7 and 8 are expositions of their religious beliefs and expressions of their religious fervor. The Thaler of 1534, (No. 6) proclaims that the "Word has become Flesh, and dwelleth within us" and "He who is not born into the spirit, may not enter the Kingdom of God,—one King ruleth over all"; and again "One God, one Faith, and one Baptism."

No. 12, Saxony, John George I., Thaler, 1617.

The other two specimens (No. 7 and No. 8) show biblical scenes: Jacobs' Dream with angels ascending the ladder leading to God, and Adam and Eve, tempted by the Serpent; Christ vanquishing Death and the Devil; Christ

No. 14, Saxony, John George I., Thaler, 1630.

among the Disciples, and Jonah and the Whale; all with many quotations from the Holy Scriptures.

Our other illustrations show principally the important role which the events of the Reformation played in the life of the Nation, and with what

No. 15, Saxony, Medal Upon Leipsic Convention, 1631.

reverence and enthusiasm the many anniversaries were celebrated throughout the land, by princes as well as cities in all parts of the country where Protestant faith and worship reigned.

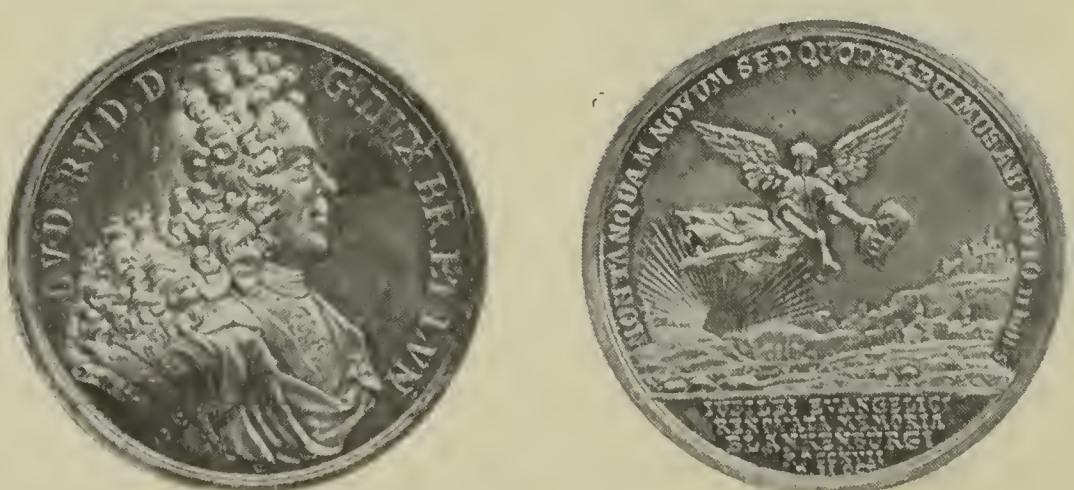
The celebration of the first Centennial of Luther's 95 Theses is shown in our Nos. 9 to 12. The first two of these explain their own purpose by their

No. 16, Silesia, Evangelical Estates, Thaler, 1634.

legend: "In memory of Religion restored 100 years ago by the Divine Grace and of the second Century auspiciously begun, the Senate and the People of Strassburg caused this coin to be struck on Nov. 1st, 1617," "Light after Darkness," and "Let all the Earth adore the Lord and sing Praises unto Him."

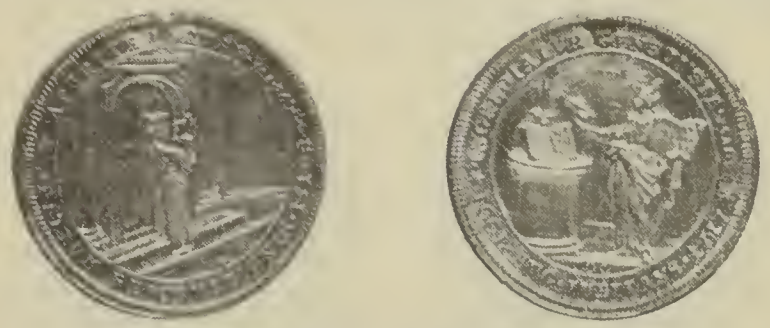
No. 17, Eisleben, Luther Thaler, 1661.

No. 11 was struck at Magdeburg and shows the spiritual relation between Luther and his predecessor Huss, the Bohemian reformer who anticipated him by just a hundred years, but the permanency of whose work had been destined



No. 18, Brunswick, Louis Rudolph Medal, Celebration at Banenburg, 1717.

to come to an end upon the fagots of the stake at which the Council of Constance condemned him to be burnt. This coin on the obverse shows the pretty coat-of-arms of the City of Magdeburg,—the Castle of the Maid,—in the centre of the Imperial double Eagle, and on the reverse the busts of Huss and of Luther, with history graven in silver: "After the passing of a hundred years,



No. 19, Augsburg Medal, 1717.

ye shall answer me; prophecy of John Huss, burnt at the stake in 1415"; "After the lapse of these, Dr. Martin Luther was roused by the Lord to restore the divine teachings in the year 1517."

That this Centennial should have been widely celebrated in the very own land of the Great Reformer, is but natural and is exemplified in No. 12, the

No. 20, Saxony, Saalfield, Ducat, 1717.

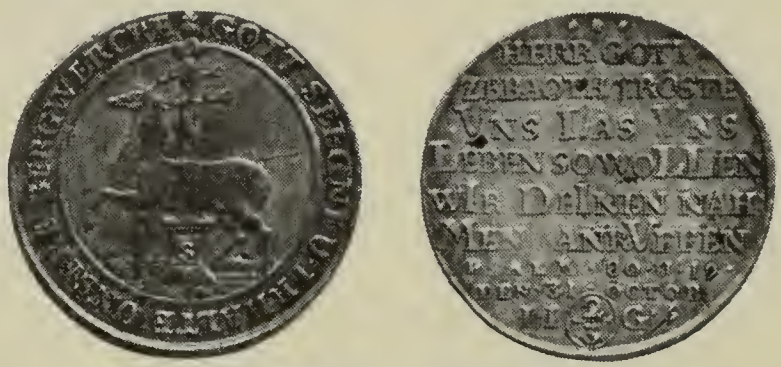
Thaler, issued by John George, Elector of Saxony (together with many other denominations) of identical design, showing his own portrait, and that of his illustrious ancestor, Frederick III., the Wise; carrying the reverend legend: "The Word of the Lord endureth forever."

No. 21, Eisenbach Medal, 1717.

John George of Saxony later also celebrated the centennial of the presentation of the Augsburg Confession, on June 25th, 1530. This was the document issued by the Lutheran princes and states of the Empire which was presented to Emperor Charles V. and the diet sitting at Augsburg at that time. In it were formulated all the tenets of the new faith, in order to clarify all the points of their dogma, contrasting it sharply with those of the Catholic and

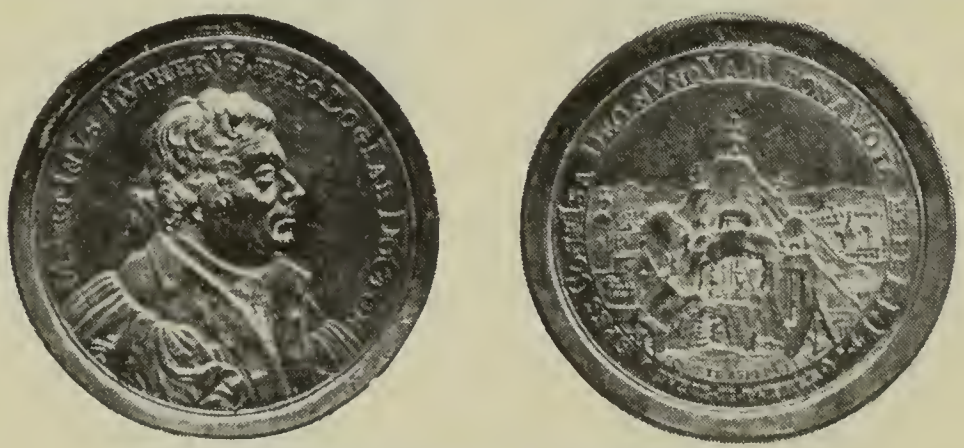
the so-called Reformed Church. The coin here shown (No. 14) again shows the portrait of John George, and on the reverse, his predecessor, John the Constant, the Saxon subscriber of the Confession, with suitable inscriptions, and the device: "The name of the Lord is the strongest Tower."

For a moment, we leave the memorials of anniversaries and find in No. 15 a medal, made by Sebastian Dadler, which commemorates the Leipsic Conven-



No. 22, Stolberg, Gulden, 1717.

tion. This was called by the Elector of Saxony for the purpose of bringing together both the professors of the Lutheran and the Reformed Faith and attempting to unify the tenets and dogmas of these two. A common basis, however, could not be reached, as the parties refused to give in on the several minor points on which they differed, and the Convention failed in its purposes.



No. 23, Stolberg, Medal, 1717.

The obverse shows a view of the City of Leipsic, with the explanation: "Elector John George of Saxony watches well for the Glory of the Lord, and holds here a Convention. God grant the fulfillment of the desired end." The reverse shows an allegorical representation of the fame of this City by reason of its commerce and its university.

No. 24, Leipsig, Medal, 1717.

Illustrative of the power of the Protestant influences is coin No. 16, a thaler issued by the "Evangelical Estates of Silesia in 1634 at Breslau, with the name of the Lord surmounting the coat of arms, and the motto: "Our Salvation and our Victory."

In the year 1601, the City of Eisleben issued a number of medals and coins, commemorative of Luther, as this City was his birthplace. The obverse, No. 17, shows the bust of Luther. "Martin Luther, the late preacher and professor at Wittenberg, of the Holy Scriptures," and the reverse, a view of the City of Eisleben. "The Word of God, and the Teachings of Luther shall not perish in all eternity."

No. 25, Brandenburg Ansbach, Thaler, 1730.

The second Centennial of the beginning of the Reformation, 1717, is very largely represented in our collection of numismatic monuments.

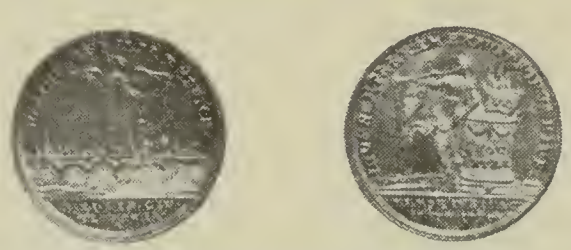
The celebration in the lands of Louis Rudolph, duke of Brunswick, is shown on the medal issued at Blankenburg, No. 18, an angel flying over the countryside, with the inscription "Nothing new but what we have had from the beginning."

No. 26, Hamburg, Thaler, 1730.

One of the several medals issued at Augsburg is illustrated in No. 19, made by P. H. Müller, on which Luther is shown nailing the theses upon the door of the Church of Wittenberg with the call "Open the Gates," and the Diety of Augsburg offering a sacrifice before an altar, on which stands a candle and an open book with the words abbreviated, "The Word of the Lord Endureth forever." In her hand she holds a tablet with the Augsburg Confession: "Let a Just People Enter."

Duke John Ernest of Saxony-Saalfeld issued a ducat (No. 20), showing his own bust; "Saalfeld celebrates the jubilee with joy," and on the reverse that of Luther, with the legend "Luther's Teaching shall endure to eternity."

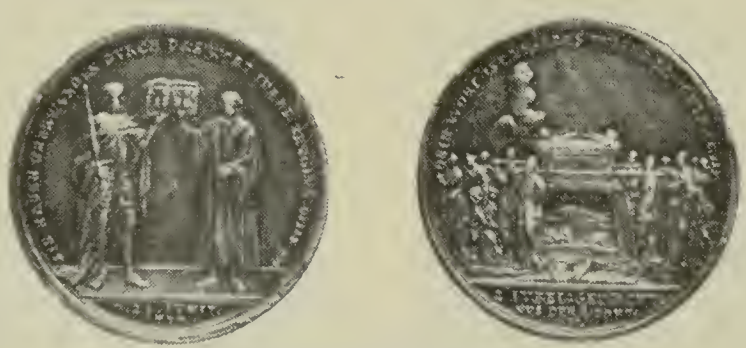
The council of the City of Eisenach issued a medal illustrated in No. 21, which might be criticised as being overloaded with designs. In the year 1617 there occurred a great fire which is pictured on the obverse, "Eisenach in Sorrow and in Joy," "Where the Lord does not guard the City," and "Be Ye doers of the Word and not alone hearers." The reverse shows the Wartburg,



No. 27, Memmingen, Ducat, 1730.

where Luther spent in security the years after the diet of Worms, when he had been outlawed by the ban of the Pope and the Emperor. "Thou art Good, Oh Lord, and Merciful; great are Thy Wonders." Reference is also made to Luther's stay in Eisenach in the year 1500, when he was attending school there as a poor chorister and was taken care of by Frau Cotta, in the inscription "The Poor Man Standeth There."

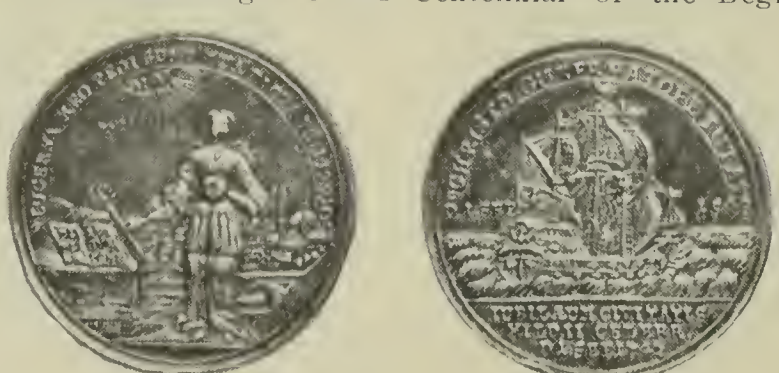
The Counts of Stolberg, a small independent state of the Empire, also proved their religious ardor as well as the fertility of their silver mines by the issue of coins and medals. No. 22 is a gulden issued by Christopher Frederick and Jost Christian, showing the usual emblem of Stolberg, the Stag, and the legends "God Bless and Preserve our Mines," and "Oh Lord, Comfort us; let us live and we shall call upon Thy Holy Name."



No. 28, Nurenberg, Medal, 1730.

No. 23 is a medal by Chistian Koch for the Strassberg Mining Society, showing the interior of the mine, and a fine portrait of Luther, with the legend: "Hope trusting in the Lord never fails in its good wishes." Again we see the small figure of the Stolberg Stag on top of a mountain.

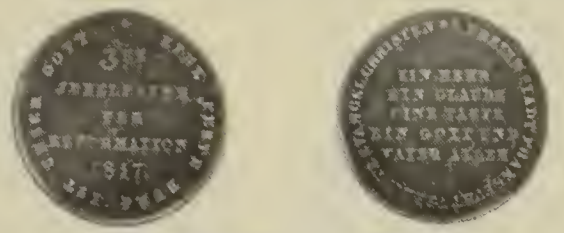
An almost identical bust of Luther is shown on the medal, ascribed to Leipsic, also commemorating the 2nd Centennial of the Beginning of the



No. 29, Hildesheim, Medal, 1742.

Reformation (No. 24). The reverse shows an altar, on which are placed a cross, the bible and church vessels, with the legend "Guard well what thou hast, lest thy Crown be taken from thee."

In Chronological order we next present four coins and medals, Nos. 25 to 28, which commemorate the second centennial of the Augsburg Confession.

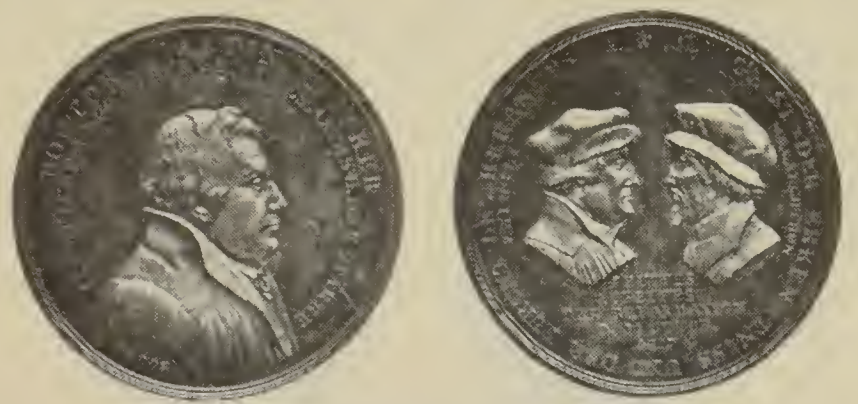


No. 30, Frankfurt, Ducat, 1817.

Charles William Frederick, Margrave of Brandenburg Ansbach, issued a thaler upon this event (No. 25) showing his own portrait, and on the reverse that of his ancestor, Margrave George, who was one of the signers of the Confession, and had introduced the Reformation in his domains; and the City of Hamburg, the thaler shown in No. 26. The City of Memmingen issued a very pretty ducat to commemorate the event (No. 27) showing the City, with legend: "Oh Lord, look upon the lowly," upon the obverse, and upon the reverse a figure, blowing a trumpet standing by an altar.

It is interesting to note in this connection that although the event was fittingly observed in this City, it had not subscribed to the Augsburg Confession at the time of its presentation, but together with several other upper German Cities, Memmingen had adhered to the doctrines of Zwingli and the Reformed Church, and had joined the presentation of a separate Confession,—a sort of minority report differing in several dogmatic points from Luther's doctrines and forming an irreconcilable division in the ranks of the Reformers.

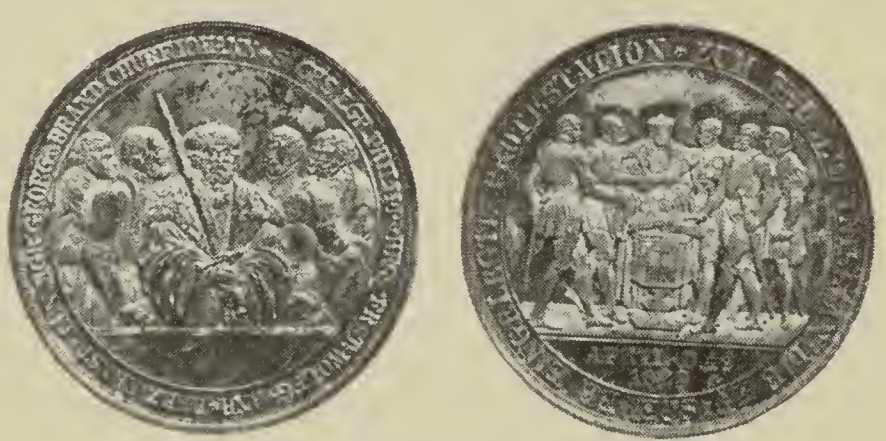
The same event is also illustrated by a small medal (No. 28) issued by Vestner of Nürmberg, on the obverse of which Elector John Frederick and Luther are pictured, upholding the Augsburg Confession between them; "They have conquered by the word of their testimony." The reverse shows a procession, carrying the Ark of the Covenant; "Thy Word is the light of our footsteps."



No. 31, Prussia, Medal by Loos, 1817.

That the Reformation was introduced in the City of Hildesheim on Sept. 1st, 1542, is perpetuated in the medal, (No. 29), struck upon this second Centennial. An allegorical figure representing the City is standing near an altar on which rests a book, inscribed upon its pages "The Bible" and "The Augsberg Confession," and the inscription, strange to say, is the same in Latin as the last specimen had in German. The reverse shows a galleon under full sail: "Safe under the Guidance of Christ."

In the 19th Century celebrations of Anniversaries of the Reformation have likewise been perpetuated in Numismatic art, especially since through the introduction of modern machinery this art has been at least mechanically perfected, even though taste might claim that artistically a perfection is not possible. The Tercentennial of the Reformation, 1817, is represented in our collection by the gold ducat, issued by the free City of Frankfurt, (No. 30),



No. 32, Spires, Protestation Medal, 1829.

and by a medal by Loos, attributed to Prussia, (No. 31). These two examples for the first time in our series indicate the union of the Lutheran Church and the Reformed Church, finally accomplished in that year. As we already saw, all attempts to unite these two sects had heretofore failed, and on the contrary, they had been bitterly hostile to each other. Finally in this year,—1817,—the civil authorities in Prussia decreed the union of the two faiths, and enforced it, and other States followed suit. The authorities permitted each congregation to use at pleasure the Augsburg Confession or the Heidelberg Catechism, which latter was the Confession of Faith of the Reformed Church. The union was also combined with the publication of a new liturgy intended for common use.

The coins and medals again contain propaganda, or professions of faith; for the Frankfurt ducat proclaims almost the identical dogmas as the Anabaptist Thaler of Munster issued in 1534 (No. 6): "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father of All," and the words of the old and stirring battle hymn: "A strong fortress is our God," and then indicating the unions of the two sects: "The United Evangelical Christians of the Free City of Frankfurt."

No. 33, Coburg, Medal, 1830.

The Loos medal also expresses the harmony then established between the two faiths, by showing on the obverse the bust of Luther and on the reverse the two portraits of Luther's follower, Melanchthon, and of the great Swiss reformer and founder of the Reformed Church, Ulrich Zwingli.

The Third Centennial of another event of the Reformation which our series had not previously referred to is represented very elaborately and

handsomely upon the medal designed by Pfeuffer and issued by Loos in commemoration of the Protestation at Spires (No. 32). This is the document in which five princes, the Elector John of Saxony, Landgrave Philipp of Hesse, Margrave George of Brandenburg, Duke Ernest of Lüneberg and Prince Wolfgang of Anhalt, and fourteen free Cities presented their solemn protest

No. 34, Frankfurt, Thaler, 1855.

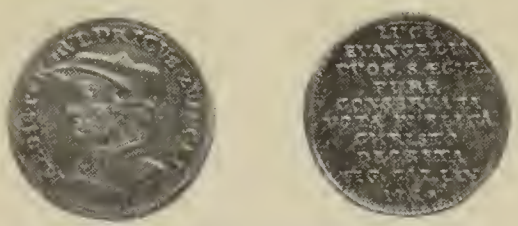
against laws passed by the Catholic majority in the diet which tended to repress the adherents of the new faith and to restrict the spread of their teachings. From this document the term "Protestant" has derived its general application.

The Pfeuffer medal pictures the five princes on the obverse, and on the reverse again shows them with others in the act of subscribing to the Protest.

That the Third Centennial of the Augsburg Confession was worthily remembered in Numismatic art is evidenced by the small, but attractive medal issued by M. Grunewald, (No. 33), showing the three busts of Elector John, Luther and Melanchthon, and on the reverse the fortress of Coburg, with the appropriate comparison that "a strong fortress is our God," implying superiority over the work of man.

We had followed the events of Luther's own time and the years immediately following with the aid of their illustrations on medals and coins. The first chapter, as it were, of the rise and spread of the Reformation was concluded by the Religious Peace Treaty of Augsburg on Sept. 25th, 1555, which formulated the principles upon which the exercise of the new Religion was permitted within the confines of the Empire, firmly established it, and formally recognized it as the "State religion" of at least a part of the Empire.

A Thaler of the City of Frankfurt (No. 34), commemorating the Ter-Centennial of this conclusion, even if only a temporary one, of these politico-religious disturbances, fittingly concludes our exhibit of medals and coins of Luther and the Reformation.



No. 35, Zurich, Ducat, 1719.

Our work would be sadly incomplete, however, were we not to make and illustrate some reference at least to the Reformed Church, already mentioned, and its founders and confessors. Thus the ducat of the City of Zurich, (No. 35), was issued in 1719 to celebrate the beginnings of the Reformation in Switzerland in 1519, when on January 1st, Master Ulrich Zwingli occupied the pulpit of the Great Cathedral at Zurich and began to preach against the sale

of indulgences in a similar manner to what Luther had done two years earlier. Zwingli's teachings led along the same paths of secession from the excesses and the fallacies of the Church of Rome, but he himself leaned more toward political activities in combination with religious ones. Zwingli went so far as to actually engage in warfare in behalf of his Faith, and met his death in battle for religious emancipation and political freedom of his City. As regards the reconciliation between the teachings of the two great reformers, Luther and Zwingli, we have already seen that this was delayed for three centuries, in spite of repeated efforts, the mandates of political wisdom, and the fact that only unimportant and trivial details of dogma kept them apart.

While Zwingli taught the new doctrines in Zurich, Calvin did so in Geneva, whence the Reformed Church spread over France, Scotland and Holland. In spite of cruel persecutions, the Reformed Church managed to maintain itself in France, until finally Louis XIV. by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, compelled the last of its professors in France to seek the protection of

No. 36, Hesse, Medal, 1698.

more tolerant rulers. Several German princes gladly received the refugees as a thrifty and industrially desirable element of the population, of which our last medal (No. 36) bears witness. This was designed by Le Clerc upon the laying of the cornerstone of the French Church by Landgrave Charles of Hesse. The obverse shows the Church with the inscription: "It stands in safety if the Supreme Power wills it." The reverse tells its own history: "Charles I, Landgrave of Hesse, moved by pious zeal, when he had granted a refuge in his lands to those exiled from France by reason of their Reformed Religion, caused this temple to be erected for their use, after the restoration of public peace, and upon his own birthday, the nones of August, 1698, when he had reached the age of 45 years, laid the cornerstone."

As we stated before, this has been intended only as a sketchy and very incomplete exhibition in connection with our subject, and down to our present days, the number of medals and coins upon Luther, the Reformation and the Lutheran Churches is being added to. In fact, the present Fourth Centennial, just celebrated, has produced some new creations, also in our own country, which for artistic achievement are quite worthy of, if not superior to, their early Numismatic predecessors.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States and Canada, 50 cents a year; Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, MARCH, 1918 No. 3

With The Editor

Why Tin Coins Decay

Some time ago we were asked why tin coins decayed. A correspondent informs us that the disintegration of the metal can only occur in a temperature not exceeding 64.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Tin decay is therefore most prevalent in cold climates. This is worth knowing, Mr. Collector. If you live in a cold district, look after your tin coins and keep them nice and warm on zero nights. Of course this applies also to tin medals.

Will Palestine Have a National Coinage?

It is hard to read the future, but Palestine, recognized and protected by America and Britain and the other Allied Powers, will doubtless in the future have a national coinage. If so, it will be nothing new. To Simon Maccabaeus, the Hasmonean, Antiochus VII of Syria, granted coining privileges. "I give thee leave also," runs the royal decree, "to coin money for thy country with thine own stamp." I Macc. 15:6. (139-138 B. C.) It is interesting to remember that ION. on the silver tetradrachms of Alexander the Great, stands for Joppa, or Jaffa, the port of Jerusalem.

Finland Has a Yellow Lion on Its New Flag

The independence of Finland has been recognized by Sweden and Germany and it is expected that Denmark and Norway will follow suit. Finland's new flag showing a yellow lion on a red background is already flying in many places. The color chosen for the lion is unfortunate; we prefer the Scotch red lion on a yellow background. However—here's luck to the Finnish lion, but its chance of living will be much greater if the Allies extend the glad hand to it. An independent country with its own flag will doubtless have its own coinage, and a lion will look well on it.

The Lion in Heraldy

Students of heraldry tell us that the arms of England contained only two lions until Richard the First, known as Coeur-de-Lion, added a third, after his conquest of Palestine, and that the third lion he probably adopted as the well known standard of the country where his greatest exploits were performed. In the book of Numbers it says, speaking of Israel: "He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion; who shall stir him up?" It is curious, perhaps significant, that the lion figures so prominently on the arms of the country that has forced the Turkish forces from Jerusalem.

"The Question Box"

We call the attention of our younger readers to this department of our Monthly. As far as we know, all the questions answered are from young collectors. We are pleased to note this, as it shows they take an intelligent interest in coins and medals. At the same time we remind them, "Rome was not built in a day." Neither was Fort Worth; they are still at it. It takes years to build a modern city, and it takes quite a few to make an advanced collector, but keep up your interest in collecting. The more you do so, the greater pleasure it will give you.

The J. Pierpont Morgan Collection

The subject for the December meeting of the American Numismatic Society of New York was the collection of ancient and modern coins and medals loaned by Mr. Pierpont Morgan. The different series represented were ably treated by several members who called attention to many of the gems of the famous collection. Especially rich in choice specimens were the Greek and Roman series, containing many pieces of the finest workmanship and utmost rarity. The great pity is that such a collection is practically unknown to the majority of American collectors. If it were possible to publish a catalogue with plates illustrating the choicest pieces, we fancy it would have an extensive sale. The study of such a catalogue would be an educatoin to collectors generally. Mr. Morgan has shown his readiness to share his pleasure with others by allowing his priceless collection to be exhibited. Doubtless he would go still further and sanction the preparation of a work that would be of the utmost value and give pleasure to others.

Last Call For Dinner

You know what this means when traveling, and you act promptly. By far the greater number of our subscribers have renewed. If you are one that has failed to do so, kindly attend to it as soon as possible. Taking it all around we believe our Monthly is fully worth a half-dollar to you. No, we are not dunning you; only gently reminding, and that's all that is needed.

The First Coinage Act Passed By Congress

FRAMED BY ALEXANDER HAMILTON

The first coinage act passed by Congress, April 2, 1792, established the monetary system of the United States. The bases of the system were: The gold dollar or unit containing 24.75 and the silver dollar or unit containing 371.25 grains of pure silver. Of the gold coins the double eagle was authorized to be coined by act of March 3, 1849; eagle, half eagle and quarter eagle, April 2, 1792; three dollar piece, February 21, 1853; one dollar, March 3, 1849. Of the silver coins the dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar, dime and half dime, April 2, 1792; trade dollar, February 12, 1873; Columbian half dollar, August 5, 1892; Isabella quarter dollar, March 3, 1893; twenty cent piece, March 3, 1875; three cent piece, March 3, 1851. Of the minor coins, the five cent, nickel, May 16, 1866; three cent, nickel, March 3, 1865; two cent, bronze, April 22, 1864; one cent, copper, April 2, 1792; one cent, nickel, February 21, 1857; one cent, bronze, April 22, 1864; half cent, copper, April 2, 1792.

The coinage system of the United States thus established in 1792, followed closely the recommendation of Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury, in his report on the establishment of a mint. The principal features of this first coinage act were the adoption of the bimetallic system, of the decimal system of reckoning, and of the dollar as the unit of value.

Alexander Hamilton's place in history is that of the organizer of American finance, and one of the chief authors of the Constitution of the United States. His chief work was done in an obscure if not inglorious period of American history between the revolution and the presidency of Thomas Jefferson. In the early days of the Republic, the constitution was not at all like that by which it is now governed. It was a loose confederation or league. There was no President in the modern sense, and practically no national Government. "Congress had no subjects. It was merely the council of an alliance. It could requisition supplies and money and men; but if a State chose to fill its ears with wax and pay no heed, the central authority was without any remedy but patience. Over the individual citizens of the State it had no jurisdiction whatsoever." It issued paper money, and the value sank to two cents on the dollar. States disputed with each other over territory; Massachusetts was the scene of a rebellion under Daniel Shays.

Hamilton advocated a closer union. He proposed that the head of the nation should be appointed for life, or good behavior, subject to imprisonment. He did not get his way in all things, but he did succeed, in conjunction with others, in having the loose league converted into the Union whose strength will have a mighty influence in deciding the results of the present war. The Federal party, of which Hamilton was the leader, stood for centralization. The Republican party of that time was the champion of State rights and individual liberty. Its leader was Thomas Jefferson, President from 1801 to 1809. He succeeded in diverting the Union from the centralizing impulse which Hamilton had given. "He was and is a popular idol," says Goldwin Smith. "Of all American statesmen hitherto, Jefferson has left the deepest impression on the character of his people." It was as Secretary of the Treasury that Hamilton's work as the organizer of national finance was done. Aaron Burr, whose ambition to become Governor of New York he thwarted, challenged him to a duel in 1804. Hamilton, though opposed to the practice of duelling,

felt bound to accept the challenge, and on the bank of the Hudson he received his death wound.

It was only by accident that Hamilton came into conflict with Burr. His real antagonist was Jefferson. Jefferson was the individualist. Hamilton the advocate of centralized power. Oliver says: "Hamilton's love for his country was always greater than his love for his countrymen. The emotional side of his nature was stirred by the idea of a nation, rather than by the interests or sufferings of the various masses or classes of which every nation is composed."

America owes much to Hamilton—much to Jefferson and the other Nation Builders who worked with them in the same glorious task. We reap and enjoy the fruits of their labors, of which this country of ours is the result.

Medal Commemorating Visit of French and British War Commissions

To commemorate the visit to New York of the British and French Commissions in 1917, a special medal has been prepared. The obverse of this medal was designed by Daniel Chester French; the reverse is the work of Miss Evelyn B. Longman.

From the half-tone reproduction may be had an idea of the beauty of the medal. On the obverse, in low relief, is represented the symbolized head of Victory, crowned with a trench-helmet. To this is bound a sprig of oak, a lily and a cluster of pine needles, as emblems of England, France and the United States. The inscription reads: "To Commemorate the Visit to New York of the French and British War Commissions, 1917." The Artist's signature is placed inconspicuously on the shoulder band. The reverse, (the design of Miss Longman), depicts a group of three figures. The inspiration of France personified by Joan of Arc, and the chivalry of England in the guise of a mediaeval knight,—both in full armour,—are enlisting the aid of American Liberty in the world-war for freedom. The tiny letters of the artist's signature and the date are the only inscription.

Five of these medals in gold have been struck for presentation to M. Rene Viviani and Marshal Joseph Joffre, of the French Commission; the Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour and Lieutenant-General G. T. M. Bridges, of the British Commission; and to the former Mayor of New York City, Hon. John Purroy Mitchel.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON

Luther and the Reformation, Illustrated on Coins and Medals

It is but fitting that we refer to some of these recent medallic memorials, issued upon this occasion in our own country, as both in design as well as inscriptions and sentiments expressed, they are reminiscent of the older memorials which we have already described in the February issue of the Numismatic Monthly.

The Quadricentennial Committee, representing various Lutheran bodies, with headquarters in Philadelphia, issued a very handsome medal designed by Mr. J. M. Swanson of New York City, while the designs were cut by the Medallic Art Co. of New York and the medals were struck by J. K. Davison's Sons.

The medal symbolizes the beginning of a Protestantism, the obverse showing the Cranach head of Luther with the words of the famous hymn, "A Strong Fortress is Our God," and the dates of Luther's birth and death, 1483 to 1546. Rev. shows Luther nailing his theses to the door of the Church at Wittenberg with an open bible above and the serpent on a cross below, and the verses John, 3, 14 and 15, the legend reading "Quadricentennial of the Reformation." In the field are the dates 1517-1917 (see illustration No. 37).

Another medal upon this event was issued by the Missouri Synod. This shows on the obverse a bust of Luther to the left with the inscription "Martin Luther, October 31st, 1917," the head having been copied from an earlier medal. The reverse shows an angel, illustrating "Revelation XIV, 6 and 7," and again quotes the Lutheran Battle Hymn, in German. The legend reads: "American Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Reformation 1917." The technical work of the medal was done by Robert B. Schiefner and William G. Block. (See illustration No. 38.)

Other medals have been issued by various Lutheran bodies in the United States, among which we are illustrating two which were manufactured by the Whitehead & Hoag Co. of Newark, N. J.:

A bronze medal made for the Eden Publishing House of St. Louis, on the obverse showing an open book on whose pages appear the letters alpha and omega; Eph. IV. 3-6; John XVII. 21; a cross above and joined hands below. "Centenary of the Evangelical Union 1817-1917." Rev. shows cup within a field of wine leaves and grapes with the letters J H S, and on a ribbon John 15, 5-16. "Quadricentennial of the Reformation 1517-1917."

The other one of the Whitehead & Hoag issues was made for the joint Lutheran Committee on the Celebration of the Quadricentennial of the Reformation, reverse showing a similar design as the medal above described of Luther affixing the theses to the Church door with the inscription "Luther posting the 85 theses." The obverse of this medal quotes Luther's words at the Diet of Worms, "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, God help me," "1517-1519." 'Quadricentennial of the Reformation." A cross and a religious decoration upon laurel leaves are shown in the lower part of the field with the small initials W. & H. Co."

THE QUESTION BOX

From various correspondents in different sections come these questions.

The Ducat---Where and When First Issued

The silver pieces issued in Apulia in 1140 by Roger II of Sicily in his own name and that of his son Roger III, Duke of Apulia, had the legend R. DX. AP. for **Roger Duke of Apulia,** and were officially known as **ducati,** or "coins of the duchy." These were the earliest "ducats." This term was also applied to the gold coin, 118 grains, dated 1558, of Mary I, of Scotland, struck during her union with the Dauphin of France. Ducats were also struck for various Continental States.

Foreign Dollars Struck Before 1794

Has any foreign nation struck coins called dollars, before the United States struck them in 1794?

There are silver coins of James VI. of Scotland (1567-1603) known as sword-dollars. These are dated from 1567 to 1571 inclusive. Obverse, name and title and the crowned arms of Scotland between I. R., both crowned; reverse, a sword erect, having a hand on the left of the sword pointing to the value X X X on the right side, the date below. Legend: PRO. ME. SI. MEREOR. IN. ME. (For me; if I deserve it, against me.)

These were current for Thirty Shillings Scots (Thirty pence English). The double mark issued from 1578 to 1580, is also known as the thistle-dollar. The reverse of this consists of an uncrowned thistle between I. R., the date, and legend: NEMO. ME. IMPVNE. LACESSET. (No one shall hurt me with impunity.)

Charles II. struck for Scotland coins known as dollars, dated 1676, 1679 and 1680 to 1682. These have his bust on obverse, and the shields of Scotland, England, France and Ireland crowned in form of a cross, a thistle in each quarter, and two C's interlinked in center.

What Is a "Bungtown Copper?"

This term is mostly given to imitation regal half-pennies of George III. It has been claimed they were made at a place called Bungtown, now Barneysville, in Swansea, Mass. Any kind of copper of crude workmanship, struck without proper authority, that circulated in the United States or Canada might be called a "bungtown." Tokens with a bust and legend such as **"George rules,"** with a harp, and "Britains Isles" on reverse, are sometimes called Pennsylvania bungtowns. We are pleased to say, for the credit of Pennsylvania, that this is not correct. They are British tokens and listed as such by Atkins in his work on that series.

The Gold Stella---Is It a Regular Coin?

The Stella or four dollar piece was struck in 1879 as a pattern coin for a new denomination, but was not adopted. Only a few specimens were struck.

The Cuba Souvenir Dollar

Who struck the Cuba Souvenir Dollar, and why?

This Souvenir Dollar was issued by Cuban sympathizers in 1897, and sold as the name implies, as a souvenir. Cuba was in a state of revolt against Spain, and the profits from the sale were for the benefit of the cause. The six stars on the reverse represent the six states into which the island is divided. It is found in two stages of the dies, in high and low relief, in silver and copper.

The Black Prince, What Coins Did He Strike?

"An American boy" asks: "Are there any British coins of the Black Prince, and who was he?"

There are no purely British coins of Edward the Black Prince, who was the first Prince of Wales. He was the son of Edward III. (1327-1377) and was created Prince of Aquitaine by his father, and issued both gold and silver coins there. These bear his name and title (translated) "Edward, first born of the King of England, Prince of Aquitaine." The reverse legend is (translated), "Glory to God in the highest, and in earth peace to men."

The present Prince of Wales, also an Edward, has seen much service during the present war, in France, Egypt and Italy. It is said he has become such a hardened soldier that the British Tommies have named him the "Brown Prince."

If you are interested in the Black Prince, read Conan Doyle's two books, "Sir Nigel" and "The White Company." They tell of his adventures in France and are splendid reading.

The Admiral Vernon Medals

Are the Admiral Vernon medals made of brass? If not, of what metal?

Christopher Pinchbeck, British, 1670-1732, a clockmaker, invented the copper and zinc alloy called after him. His son, Edward Pinchbeck, 1713-1766, succeeded him in the business of a clock, watch and toy maker, and is supposed to have issued the interesting series of Vernon medals. "Pinchbeck" metal is an alloy of three parts tin to four of copper, but the composition was jealously guarded by the inventor, who only communicated it to his son. It resembles gold in color, smell and ductibility.

—Forrer's Biographical Dictionary.

Important Numismatic Announcement

What collectors will undoubtedly recognize as one of the most important numismatic announcements of recent years, is the announcement now being made public by B. Max Mehl of Fort Worth, Texas, to the effect that Mr. Elmer S. Sears, the Numismatic Dealer of Fall River, Massachusetts, in retiring from active numismatic business has turned over to him, for sale at auction, his entire stock of Coins, Medals, Paper Money, etc., valued at approximately twenty-five thousand dollars.

Mr. Sears has been established in the numismatic business for a period of twenty-eight years. His stock was always considered one of the best in the

I AM JUSTLY PROUD TO MAKE THIS

ANNOUNCEMENT

MR. ELMER S. SEARS

OF

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

In Retiring From Active Numismatic Business

Has Placed With Me
His Entire Stock

The Stock Aggregating in Value Approximately
Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars

Catalogues Now in Preparation, and Are to Be Distributed Free to all Who Are on our Mailing List and to Other Interested Collectors who Write for Them

MINDING MY BUSINESS,
AND MINDING IT WELL

B. Max Mehl

NUMISMATIST
MEHL BUILDING

Fort Worth, - - - Texas

country, being almost complete in the United States series with many great rarities, and always featuring coins in the finest obtainable state of preservation.

This high class numismatic stock is to be sold at auction without reserve. It will be divided into several sales, all of which will be made of general interest, containing a good assortment of each series represented in the stock of Coins, Medals, Books, Cabinets, etc. There will be no charge made for any of the catalogues. They will be sent to all who are interested.

The Springfield Coin Club

The 60th meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held in the rooms of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, December 12th, 1917, with President Pond in the chair. There were fourteen members present, viz.: Messrs. Curtis, Converse, Browne, Fuller, Morse, Morris, Oliver, Pond, Prevost, Sheen, Stone, Wolcott, and A. W. Morris. There were three visitors, one of whom was the esteemed President of the A. N. A., Mr. Carl Wurtzbach; the others being Messrs. Waterman and Orfutt.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. Upon motion, the Treasurer's report was dispensed with. An application for membership was received from Mr. A. Atlas Leve, of Syracuse, N. Y., and was laid on the table until our next meeting in conformity with our By-laws. Application for membership was also received from Mr. Carl Wurtzbach, of Lee, Mass., and upon motion by Mr. Prevost, duly seconded, the rules were suspended and the President of the A. N. A., Mr. Wurtzbach, was made a member of the Springfield Coin Club by acclamation.

The question of the annual dinner was then discussed and upon motion it was decided to lay the matter on the table, with a tendency to abandon the matter because of the war. Mr. Stone then spoke of auction sales records and the members all thought the publication of the same in a simple form as outlined by Mr. Stone's correspondent was a good one.

Mr. Wurtzbach was introduced as the speaker of the evening by President Pond, who stated among other things that the Springfield Coin Club felt highly honored by the visit paid them by our National President. Mr. Wurtzbach gave an interesting talk on coins, particularly the Colonial coins, and during his talk exhibited his collection of Colonial coins, which is admitted to be one of the largest and most valuable in the country. Mr. Wurtzbach traced the history of the coins from 1200 B. C. up to the present time, bringing out the great importance of coins in fixing the dates of historical events, citing cases where accepted dates had been proved erroneous through the finding of coins of the time. He emphasized the need of teaching the younger generation to have a proper regard for the coins of their country, which represent all the struggles of the forefathers and the power behind the Government. No country without a good system of coinage can rank high and in the war the country which has the most resources, represented by money and specie, will win, he asserted. His remarks were greatly appreciated by the club and a rising vote of thanks was given him.

Upon adjournment, the officers of the club together with Mr. Wurtzbach were the guests of President Pond at the Kimball Hotel.

A. W. MORRIS, Secretary.

The 61st meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held in the rooms of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, January 9th, 1918, with President Pond in the chair. There were eleven members present, as follows: Messrs. Curtis, Converse, Frazier, Fuller, McCowan, G. M. Morris, Morse, Oliver, Pond, Stone, and A. W. Morris. There was one visitor, Mr. Orfutt.

The application for membership of A. A. Leve, of Syracuse, N. Y., was presented. Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, it was unanimously voted that "he be given leave to withdraw his application" and that the Secretary notify him to that effect.

The entertainment committee reported that our fellow-member, Elmer E. Sears, would soon give a talk on counterfeits. It was suggested by Mr. Oliver that we get the minor proof sets of Denver and San Francisco for the various members wanting them.

The annual reports were then called for; the Secretary's report for the year showing the total attendance of 147 members, and 10 visitors, with twelve meeting nights. Gain of membership being 3, making the total membership of the club 40. Three members, namely, P. C. Pond, J. E. Morse and A. W. Morris, were present at all meetings, while W. S. Fuller only missed one night.

The Treasurer's report showed a gain of cash on hand over the first of January, 1917, of $8.08, besides a substantial balance and all bills paid. The report of Mr. Curtis, the Librarian, showed we had sixty-six publications on hand, and that the members had handed him sufficient clippings to fill seven pages in our scrap-book.

The annual election of officers was then ordered, and President Pond appointed as tellers, A. W. Converse and G. M. Morris. Mr. Pond was proposed for re-election as president, but he refused to consider the nomination, because of business pressure, and thereupon our Vice President of the last two years, Mr. Charles A. Frazier, was elected President for the ensuing year. Mr. W. S. Fuller of Westfield was elected Vice President, and Mr. A. W. Morris re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

After a short but very pleasant speech from Mr. Pond, he resigned the chair to Mr. Frazier, the new President. Upon motion of A. W. Morris, a rising vote of thanks was given Mr. Pond for his many gifts to the club and for his strenuous efforts in the club's behalf during his term of office.

New and old officers were the guests of the new President, Mr. Frazier, at a late supper. A. W. MORRIS, Secretary.

The 62nd meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held in the rooms of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, February 13th, with our new President, Mr. C. A. Frazier, in the chair. There were fifteen members present, as follows: Messrs. Bugbee, Downe, Frazier, Fuller, Krager, McCowan, G. M. Morris, Morse, Oliver, Pond, Prevost, Sears, Shean, Stone, and A. W. Morris. There were four visitors Messrs. J. H. Whipple, L. Packard, D. J. Bragg, Jr., and J. J. Buckley.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Elmer E. Sears, our fellow-member and the well known Swansea Numismatist, was then introduced. He gave a very interesting talk on counterfeits and their detection, illustrating his talk with numerous sketches on a blackboard; pointing out that there were three kinds of counterfeits or imitations, namely, electrotypes, copies, and altered dates, of which the last would be far the most dangerous. He particularly illustrated

Rochester Numismatic Association

how to tell a genuine 1799, 1804 and 1856 cent, as well as the 1804 dollar, etc. After his very instructive talk on the above subjeet, he gave by speeial request a burlesque or "take-off" on Raymond Hitcheoek, which would have made even Hitchcock himself "green with envy." A rising vote of thanks was given Mr. Sears for his entertainment.

Mr. Oliver, the Secretary of the A. N. A., then exhibitde his colleetion of fractional currency of about one hundred and twenty-five erisp varieties. Mr. Pond, our ex-President, also exhibited a part of his collection of paper money. Both of these exhibits were very much appreciated by the members and visitors.

After a short auction, the meeting adjourned, and the officers of the club, together with the speaker of the evening, were the guests of our ex-President, Mr. Pond, at a midnight collation or "fourth meal of the day."

A. W. MORRIS, Secretary.

The 138th meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association was called to order at the Hotel Rochester, Tuesday, January 22, 1918, by President H. H. Yawger. Members present: Messrs. Yawger, L. G. Amberg, Gillette, Horner, Loizeau, Borradaile, Savage, Bernstein, W. H. Amberg, Bunnell, Woodbury, Bauer, Stanley, Sunday, Dr. Young, Dr. French, Plumb, Dr. Tillotson, Maunovry, Wolff. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

A letter was received from Dr. D. A. Young of Buffalo, stating that he would be at the meeting if the trains were running. The Doctor came in with his usual happy smile just prior to the letter being read.

A telegram was received from Mr. Carl Wurtzbach, president of the American Numismatic Association, stating that he regrets very much that owing to the fuel and light situation, he had been prevented from coming, and wishing us a most enjoyable and profitable gathering and sends greetings to all.

Letter received from Mr. Dell Angell, of Milwaukee; also from Mr. C. F. Clarke of Le Roy, regretting very much their being unable to attend the meeting.

Postals received from Viee President Dr. S. Handler and Mr. Koeb, stating that owing to their illness, they did not believe they would be able to attend this meeting.

W. H. Amberg read an artiele regarding the Willow Bend Inn, whieh was foreelosed on January 10th. Many of the members regretted to learn of this, as they well remembered having had many a pleasant time while stopping there for their dinner at the R. N. A. outings.

A handsome watch fob made of a $3.00 gold pieee incased in a gold band and suspended on a gold plate, having the following inscription in four lines: "Milton Roblee—From—Rochester Numismatic Association—Jan. 1918," which was mounted on a black silk ribbon, was presented by Mr. Gillette on behalf of the association to Mr. Milton Roblee, manager of the Hotel Rochester, as a token of our appreciation for the many courtesies extended to the R. N. A. during the past year. Mr. Roblee thanked the association in a most fitting manner and hoped to continue to be as chesty with his generous eourtesies in the future as he had been in the past; and also stated during his re-

marks that his particular reason for feeling chesty is that his son has been promoted Major in the Army.

After the meeting the association held its 6th annual dinner, which was changed to a Buffet Lunch on account of the war conditions and limited to members. Tables were set and the members sat down to partake of the good things to eat. The rest of the evening was spent in coin talk and Numismatic stories.

Meeting adjourned to February 5, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

The 139th meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association was called to order at the Hotel Rochester, Tuesday, February 5, 1918, by the Treasurer, Mr. Claude T. Borradaile, in the absence of our President.

Members present: Messrs. Borradaile, Horner, Loizeau, Koeb, Mannovry, Sunday, Crandall, Bauer, Burling, Wolff, Plumb, L. G. Amberg, Gillette, W. H. Amberg, Dr. French.

Dr. French remarked that it would be a good idea to have something doing at every meeting and suggested that we have an auction at one meeting and have a paper read at the next.

Mr. Bauer spoke regarding an article which he read in the paper recently, in reference to script money now being used in Palestine and remarked that it is very interesting as it is nearly 2000 years since money was issued there by the Jewish people.

Mr. Maunovry spoke regarding the "Philatelic Index" which is published semi-monthly by Mr. C. A. Burner of Normal, Ill., containing prices realized at coin and stamp auctions.

Dr. French read an article from the paper entitled "The Seal Which Is Used on Our Paper Money," as follows:

A relic of the revolutionary days when we were not yet a nation still remains on our paper money. The seal which appears on every bill issued by the Government contains the abbreviated words "Thesaur. Amer. Septent. Sigil." The full phrase is "Thesauri Americana Septentriamolis Sigillum," which simply means, "Seal of the Treasury of North America." Our distinguished ancestors felt that if a thing were to be said with dignity, it had to be said in Latin.

An auction sale of $1.00, $2.50 and $5.00 Gold Pieces, also several fine United States Coins, including an extremely fine specimen of the 1793 Cent, having periods after Liberty, and date, and "America" on the reverse; also several other cents in uncirculated and proof condition, was held during the evening, Mr. Bauer acting as auctioneer.

Meeting adjourned to February 19, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

New York Numismatic Club

Regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held at the Park Avenue Hotel, Friday evening, January 11, 1918, with President D. W. Valentine presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Frey, Elder,

Proskey, Beatty, Kohler, Southwick, Butler, Blake, Raymond, Valentine, Boyd, Swanson, Wormser, Beesley, Wood, Belden. Visitor, Chas. Schmall. Messrs. Kohler, Blake and Raymond were welcomed.

After roll call the minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

The Secretary reported the receipt of one magazine, and of letters from J.de Lagerberg, enclosing items on the "New Currency Issued by Japan due to Small Coinage Shortage," and "Coins, Currency, Medals," etc., in Venezuela; a printed notice from the President of the Numismatic Circle of Naples, in regard to Sig. Cagiati; notices of the publication of the names of our officers in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle Almanac, and the American Art Annual.

The subject for the next meeting of the Club was announced as "The Arabic Glass Coins or Weights."

The Secretary was asked to write a letter to the Rev. James Nies, of Brooklyn, an authority on these pieces, inviting him to our next meeting.

Mr. Frey, for the Publication Committee, reported that the Year Book was finished and ready for the printer.

The subject of the evening, "The Coins of the Hanseatic League," was next taken up. Dr. Valentine commented, saying he regarded the league a league of merchants, and quoted from Ambassador James W. Gerard's "Four Years in Germany," in which he compares the free ports of Germany, without a protective tariff, to American ports. In these free ports raw goods were manufactured and then exported, of course to the advantage of the country permitting this system. Mr. Gerard speaks of the advantages of such free ports and suggests some application of the principle to our own.

Mr. Wormser spoke at length of the Hanseatic League and its history to the time it was swallowed up by Prussia, stating that the Union was for the main purpose of spreading German colonization and to protect commerce. The League had a London office, its English office having been closed up comparatively recently. The League was especially strong in controlling the trade of the Baltic for Germany. Wismar and Rostock were once in this League. Hamburg, Lubeck and Bremen were called the Free Hanseatic Cities. There was no coinage of the League as a league. The only surviving city of the League as a free city is Hamburg.

Mr. Wormser made a large exhibit of gold and silver coins of the cities of Bremen, Hamburg and Lubeck. He mentioned the double ducat of Hamburg, struck especially for the Peace of Westphalia, in 1649, and schowed an interesting coin of Charles V., showing a Knight holding a double eagle of the German Empire on a shield; a Hamburg medal showing the present German emperor with a beard, and other pieces.

Mr. Proskey exhibited 271 different coins, as follows: Hamburg: gold, 11; silver, 80. Bremen: copper, 12; silver, 53. Lubeck: silver, 31. Frankfort: copper, 31; silver, 50.

Mr. Proskey gave historical data of the four cities, and stated the word "Humbug" had originated from the name of "Hamburg." He stated the League at one time extended as far as Dantzig and Stralsund. He showed a coin of crown size of Lubeck of 1776 showing St. John; another of 1730 for the Luther centennial, and told that the Rothschild family were instrumental in having a coin or coins issued by that city. He spoke of his collection of

Jew pfennigs from 1807 to 1821, exhibiting 15 varieties. One of these bore the traditional 3 balls. Of the gold coins of Hamburg he mentioned the 1828 1 schilling piece in gold, that one being identical with one in silver.

The meeting was then adjourned.

THOS. L. ELDER, Secretary.

Regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held at the Park Avenue Hotel, Friday evening, February 8, 1918, with President D. W. Valentine presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Adams, Beesley, Boyd, Beatty, Case, Elder, Frey, Kohler, Proskey, Smith, Swanson, Valentine, Wormser and Wood.. Guest of the evening, Rev. Dr. James Nies, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Secretary reported the reeeipt o fa letter under date of February 2nd, informing the Club that at our suggestion he had inserted a notice of the Club's meetings in the Numismatist, to give a welcome to visiting Numismatists in New York who could attend any of its meetings.

Rev. Dr. James Nies, the speaker, was next introduced, and he spoke at length on the subjeet of the evening, "The Arab Glass Coins or Weights." He mentioned an interesting correspondence between himself and Dr. Stanley Lane Poole, another noted authority on the subject. He stated these weights had been used by the Egyptians as long ago as the Ptolemies, and that we have Egyptian, Roman and Byzantine examples as well as Arabic, the latter being the most abundant. The Khareebah, or Caroub, was the native Arab unit of value, equal to 3 grains of wheat or 4 grains of barley. The weights were divided as follows: 1: Weights for eoins. 2: Bettle stamps for measures. 3: Weights for merehandise. Dr. Nies exhibited a very fine plate and some remarkable examples from his fine collection, and interpreted the inscriptions on each. These weights were also used for weighing gold, silver and jewels in the market plaee. The larger sized weights were used for merchandise weighing. The British Museum eontains a fine collection, and has issued the best known work on the subject. Dr. Nies did not believe these weights ever passed speeifieally for money, although many were used for weighing money and possess the same weight. The Egyptian issues from about 709 A. D. to around 1200 A. D. comprised. Omayyad, Abbasid and Fatimid. The smaller and more numerous of the weights were of the Fatimit dynasty. The weights come in all eolors from white to blaek, with many interesting eolor combinations and shades, some of very brilliant hue. Abd el Melik employed a Jew named Somair of Taima for a mint master. As some of the glass pieees have the design of a star, Mr. Nies suggested the possibility that this was the invention of Somair, and having a reference to the Star of David. The eoins adopted by the Arabs were the gold dinar, half and quarter dinar; the silver dirhem, half and quarter dirhem, the latter very rare. Great aeeuraey in weight was noticeable, some of them agreeing exaetly with eoins. Dr. Nies believed these weights were not cast, but he thought the great aeeuracy was attained by using gun powder containing the vitreous elements, first carefully weighed, and then put into a form where it was melted and stamped with a die while cooling. He stated he saw a eomplete bottle with its stamp undamaged in Cairo. One of his examples mentions a ruler not mentioned in Arab history. Here is a sample inseription quoted

by Dr. Nies: Of green color, 1 1-10 inch, "In the Name of God, The Ameer Isma'eel, Son of Ibraheem, honor Him God, a quarter Kist Full."

A vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Nies. Messrs. Proskey and Wood spoke on the weights in their own collections. Mr. Proskey believed the glass pieces were actually used as money. Dr. Valentine stated that from the fact of some of the pieces being broken it was evident that these pieces could be altered in weight and were altered accidentally. It seemed as if they were used as a measure. "Bottle stamps" was a misnomer, for if used as a measure for what was to be put into the bottle, they ought to have been called measure stamps, not bottle stamps.

Mr. Wood exhibited a large and interesting collection of all sizes, colors and materials, including clay. He had an example containing gold leaf. He had one remarkable example of a heivy weight with a top to it.

Mr. Elder exhibited 310 examples of the Fatimid dynasty, in his own collection.

Mr. Case agreed with Dr. Nies, that the pieces had not been used for coins.

It was authorized to have the Year Book published.

The subject of the next meeting: "The Coins of Venice."

Medallic Art Committee: To report on the Presidential Medal at the next meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

THOS. L. ELDER,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Coinage for the Year 1917

Compiled by A. J. JANSEN.

	Philadelphia	Denver	San Francisco
Half Dollar, M. M. on Rev.	12,292,000	1,940,000	6,506,000
Half Dollar, M. M. on Obv.	.....	765,400	
Quarter Dollar, Stars on Sides	8,740,000	1,509,200	7,504,000
Quarter Dollar, Three Stars under Eagle	13,880,000	6,224,400	
Dimes	55,230,000	9,402,000	27,330,000
Nickels	51,424,029	9,910,800	4,193,000
Cents	196,429,785	55,120,000	32,620,000
McKinley Gold Dollars	10,000	.....	.....

No gold was struck except McKinley Souvenir Gold Dollar.

San Francisco made no segregation of different dies for half and quarter dollar.

A Correction

In the article anent the de Gortz dalers contributed by O. P. Eklund, and published in the December issue, the copy reader of Mehl's Numismatic Monthly in his endeavor to somewhat lengthen the introductory portion of the contribution, unwittingly gave the impression that King Charles XII. was beheaded. The reference to the King "giving his head as the price of his ambition" was intended as a figurative expression, as was the second erference to de Gortz's "death on the scaffold," much as the word "executed" is used by historians and other writers to cover any method of capital punishment. As the aforementioned copy reader almost "lost his head" for his inept phraseology and faulty diction, it is hoped that this correction, made in justice to Mr. Eklund, will set him right in the premises.—Ed.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States, 50 cents a year; Canada and Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, APRIL, 1918 No. 4

With The Editor

They Want A Two Cent Coin

The American Newspaper Publishers' Association recently in session at Washington, recommended that the Treasury resume the minting of two-cent pieces. It was pointed out that the issue of such a coin would not only supply a long-felt want in business circles, but provide a convenient medium of exchange in purchasing newspapers, the price of which generally has advanced to two cents on account of the shortage of news print paper.

New Type of Coin is Wanted

If the Treasury should act on the recommendation and resume coinage of the two-cent piece, we trust they will adopt a new design. The old issue of this coin is not exactly a thing of beauty, and certainly does not show American art at its best.

It should not be a difficult matter to select a design that would please both collectors and the general public. The design might be commemorative of the part taken by our country in the present great war for the freedom of the world. Or if this was not considered advisable, a graceful compliment might be paid to one of the great fathers of American newspapers. There is precedent to guide us here. We have our Lincoln cent; why should we not have our Franklin penny?

The question of metal would also have to be considered. We do not want a coin double the size and weight of our present cent. Why not have a nickel two-cent coin?

Three Men---and One Woman

Mr. Carl Wurtzbach claimed in an address delivered before the Springfield Coin Club that Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte and George Washington have had more coins and medals struck in their honor and to perpetuate their memory than any other person. If Mr. Wurtzbach is willing to admit sovereigns whose effigy appears on coins of the countries over which they reigned to enter the lists, we might suggest he has overlooked a lady. We doubt if all the combined coins and medals issued in honor of the three great men would approach in number those that bear the effigy of the late Queen

Victoria. For over sixty years, in different stages, from a young girl to an old woman, her features appeared on countless millions of coins and medals issued in Great Britain and the British colonies throughout the world. While giving in this instance first place to Victoria, we yield to none in our respect and admiration for Julius, Napoleon and George.

The Coins of Brazil and Other Latin American Republics

One of the results of the present war has been to bring into closer touch and union the different republics of North and South America. In consequence of this, much greater interest is being taken in the coinage of our sister republics. Few Americans realize the important fact that the Republic of Brazil is larger than the United States, Germany, Portugal, Greece and Montenegro put together. Mr. A. H. Savage-Landor, the great traveller, after a journey that lasted several months through the practically unknown interior, claims it to be the richest and most wonderful country in the world. Diamonds, gold, silver and other metals are found in great quantities. The copper coins of Brazil are an interesting series, and the Pernambuco issues date back as far as 1695—nearly one hundred years before our first cents and half-cents were struck. The population of Brazil is three times greater than that of Canada.

Twelve of the Latin-American countries have sided with the allies, and Argentina hangs on the fringe. The young collector looking for something American outside our own series, might turn with advantage to the coins of Brazil and her sister republics. The United States is their natural and only possible guardian. They are our cousins—and we should take greater interest in them and their coinage.

The Question Box

We call the attention of all young collectors to the answers given to questions asked respecting the "overdates" on our cents and half-cents. As far as we know, no writer has had much to say, if anything, on this subject. It is an interesting subject and the mystery of the 1800 "over 1790" cent is fully explained.

The War Told In Medals

Under the above heading the April issue of the Munsey Magazine publishes an interesting article by Mayo Dudley, on the Medals and Tokens, official and otherwise, that have been issued during the present war. The Medals described are those which have been gathered in Amsterdam for the collection of the United States Government. The article is profusely illustrated and will prove of interest to every collector of coins and medals.

An Enterprising Numismatic Club

The New York Numismatic Club is to be congratulated and commended for the really numismatic manner in which it is conducting its meetings, by setting aside each meeting for the discussion and display of a particular series of coinage. Collectors who follow the reports of the minutes of these meet-

ings will obtain numismatic knowledge hardly possible to attain through any other source.

The March meeting of this progressive Numismatic Club was a most interesting one. They discussed the subject of the coins of Venice, as will be noted from the report as published in this issue of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY.

Late Copies

If your copy of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY fails to reach you on time—between the third and fifth of the month—please be a little patient before writing us of the delay. The magazine is usually mailed out on time, the first of the month, but just now we all know of the delay in all transportation, and it has been our experience that even first-class mail matter is delayed and second and third-class matter are often delayed in transit double former time.

What War is Doing to a Famous Dollar

It was recently noted in The Wall Street Journal that a large silver coin "practically unknown in most civilized countries, yet strangely popular in remote parts of Africa and Asia—a coin, moreover, that has been minted for a hundred years under a false date and with the effigy of a sovereign long since dead—the Maria Theresa dollar," is threatened with elimination from circulation, owing to its conversion into bullion. The impending fate of this dollar, thaler, or "rial," was recently announced officially by Addison E. Southard, American Consul at Aden, at the south end of Arabia.

While the coin is a mere imitation except as to material, it receives no governmental recognition, and even its accepted weight is 47 grains less than its true weight. The rial, as the Arabs call it, "is so avidly treasured by natives of the regions around Aden that in 1914 about 200,000,000 of the deceitful coins were circulated there both as money and as articles of commerce." As to the curious history of the coin, the following facts are imparted:

"Early in the nineteenth century Arab traders, it is said, obtained certain silver thalers minted by Austria in 1780 under the reign of the beautiful Maria Theresa. The susceptible Orientals were so taken, tradition says, with the queen's image that they rapidly acquired more thalers as gifts, and models of pulchritude, maybe, for their own women. Soon hoarded as wealth, the dollar became equally esteemed along the neighboring coast of Africa, so that in Abyssinia it now circulates as the only coin generally accepted. It is found mainly in the Yemen and Aden hinterland, in other parts of Arabia, in Abyssinia, in Eritrea, in British, French, and Italian Somaliland, and in the Persian Gulf ports.

"Yet the Turkish Government has often tried to prevent the use of the dollar as a coin in Arabia, and has even prohibited its importation. Neither is the dollar recognized officially by the British at Aden, or in other English possessions. The Arabs, nevertheless, must have abundant rials if only smuggling will provide them.

"In order to meet the demands of the 'market,' dollars have been constantly minted for many years in Austria that still bear the bust of Maria

Theresa, the Austrian double eagle, and the date '1780.' Implicitly accepted by the natives as weighing 480 grains, or 1 troy ounce, the coin weighs, in fact, but 433.08 grains. It is somewhat larger than the standard American dollar, the weight of which is 412.5 grains. According to the present price of silver, the thaler, 833.33 fine, is worth about 72 cents, as against about 74 cents for the American dollar, 900 fine. But the trade value of the thaler, or rial, at Aden, as estimated by its equivalent value in rupees, the official standard there, has varied during a long period from 36 cents to 64 cents.

"Since the price of silver has risen, a highly profitable business has been done by Aden merchants in buying thalers for export to England or India, where they are melted into bullion. Even more than the usual discount from the bullion value has been willingly conceded by the Arabs whenever abrasion has diminished the charms of Queen Theresa. Many rials have been acquired by speculators at prices around 60 cents, and the total number purchased and exported since the beginning of the war is estimated at 40 000,000."

Reform for China's Currency

President of State Bank There Urges the Adoption of a Gold-Exchange System.

At a recent conference of merchants and bankers at Shanghai, held under the auspices of the British Chamber of Commerce there, the President of the Bank of China outlined a plan for the reform of the Chinese currency system, and it is understood that the present Government favors this among other progressive ideas, and it will help as it becomes practical to do so under gradual solidifying political conditions.

The President of the Bank of China expressed the opinion that the Chinese Government should adopt the gold-exchange system as employed in British-Indian currency, having a gold standard, with the "New Republican Dollar" of silver as the monetary basis and legal tender. The powers interested in the gold exchange of money, he said, should be approached by the Chinese Government for the arrangement of a fixed ratio between foreign moneys and this kind of silver money.

The old "copper cash" currency of China had passed away, he said, although it had survived in retail transactions in some parts of Hupeh, Chihli, and elsewhere. The sycee system was so cumbersome and intricate, he strongly recommended that it should be abolished. The silver dollar money had come into general demand since the Chinese Government altered the formation of the budget, and based it on the silver dollar instead of the old Kuping tael. He thought that the two mints at Tientsin and Nanking should be retained, alone among the six present Chinese mints, and under the Ministry of Finance a standard issue of coins should be made.

It was a matter of great importance, he said, to have a paper note issue, which would take time in order to accustom the Chinese people to it. There should be one bank of issue, and for a number of years this bank should carry a silver dollar for every note put out, so that the silver certificate would be received unhesitatingly by the people. When the Chinese had once become

accustomed to paper money, a campaign of education in the safety of Government credit in monetary matters would begin.

The Government, he advised, should take steps to withdraw such copper-cash currency as is in excessive circulation anywhere, coining one and ten cash pieces, and 10-cent silver pieces on a decimal basis, with legal tender enforced. Unless vigorous measures were taken in regard to the subsidiary coins, the new silver money might never be treated as legal tender.

—N. Y. Times.

U. S. Mints Took in $907,900,000 Gold in Year

This Was an Increase of $400,000,000, Due to Heavy Importations of Foreign Gold Coin.

Value of the gold acquired by the Government at the mints and assay offices during the fiscal year 1917 was $907,962,397, according to Director of the Mint Baker, the large increase over last year, roughly $300,000,000, being due principally to the heavy importations of foreign coin. United States gold coin received for recoinage was of the value of $1,906,125, transfers of gold between mint offices totaled $13,832,622, making an aggregate of gold handled by the mint service during the fiscal year 1917 of $923,701,144, compared with $569,627,507 in the previous year.

Silver purchased during the fiscal year 1917 totaled 6,161,680.34 fine ounces, costing $4,513,215, at an average price of 73¼ cents per fine ounce (for fiscal year 1916 average price was 51 cents), the silver received and repaid to the depositors thereof in bars bearing the Government stamp totaled 4,610,396.06 fine ounces. Silver deposited by foreign governments to be worked into coin totaled 811,754.81 fine ounces. United States silver coin received for recoinage totaled 6,241,055.78 fine ounces, with recoinage value of 8,627,945. This compares with 566,469 fine ounces, valued at $783,092, for the fiscal year 1916. Philippine silver coins received for recoinage totaled 149,129.07 fine ounces.

Transfers of silver between mint service offices totaled 1,231,661.15 fine ounces, making an aggregate quantity of silver handled by the mint service during the fiscal year 1917 of 19,205,677.21 fine ounces. The large increase over last year of silver handled was due principally to the extraordinary demand for subsidiary silver coin and to the placing in circulation of the new design subsidiary silver coins.

United States coinage for the fiscal year 1917 amounted to $25,445,148, of which $1,230,040 was gold, $18,263,600 silver, $3,816,496 nickel, and $2,135,011 bronze. In fiscal year 1916 United States coinage amounted to $37,209,062. This amount includes $30,040 in $1 gold pieces struck at the Philadelphia mint for the McKinley Memorial Association, and represents a total of 406,500,972 pieces.

There were also coined at the Philadelphia mint 5,000 gold pieces for Costa Rica; 589,661 silver pieces for Columbia; 2,000,000 silver and 2,800,000 nickel pieces for Ecuador; 2,500,000 nickel pieces for Salvador; 100,000 silver and 800,000 nickel pieces for Panama; 1,170,000 bronze pieces for Nicaragua; 510,000 gold planchets and 600,449 silver planchets for Peru. The mint at San

Francisco coined for the Philippine Islands 1,594,203 silver, 1,600,000 nickel, and 4,500,000 bronze pieces, a total of 18.769,313 pieces.

The seigniorage on United States coinage executed totaled $10,478,643, of which $5,406,158 was on subsidiary silver coins and $5,072,484 was on minor coins.

A Letter From Uncle George to His Nephew John.

My Dear John:

Much in your last letter was true, but you have jumped to a wrong conclusion in one case. There are Numismatists and numismatists. Your friend may be one of the first, or he may not. The cataloguer you mention may be as ignorant as you think he is—but most probably he is not. Even cataloguers pick up some knowledge of coins in the years they devote to their business. They do not work with their eyes closed all the time. Of course I admit they lack the expert knowledge that many collectors possess, acquired by the examination of many thousands of coins on the five and ten cent trays of the second-hand stores. How I enjoy hunting over those trays—what treasures I sometimes find—and what treasures I fail to meet. But I live in hope.

Did you ever study the portraits of Numismatists that appear from time to time in the monthlies—and at Convention times, in the local press? Many of these men are not nearly as wise as their pictures indicate. It would be contrary to the Constitution of the U. S.; in fact, positively indecent. If they were, President Wilson would put them in charge of the Army and Navy, and Baker and Daniels would have to hunt for other jobs.

Why ask so many questions? My hair is rapidly disappearing under the strain, but what care you? Not a bit. If you buy a coin from a dealer—and pay him for it, he does not care a continental what you do with it. You may place it in your own collection—sell it to some other less fortunate collector and lose a quarter by doing so, or bore a hole through it and hang it inside your shirt. It's your coin and you are its doctor.

You ask about the wisdom of specializing. Well, it's all right to specialize, but don't forget, a specialist is one who devotes himself to a particular subject or series. Do you really know enough about any one series to warrant you posing as a specialist on it? Of course, a specialist does not become such all at once—it takes time and some money.

Some specialists become intolerant with others who are not interested in the same series. Have you ever heard a collector of our cents enlarge on the folly of the Canadian who devotes his time to the bouqut sous, and ships, colonies and commerce tokens? I only know one worse thing, and it is to hear the Canadian's opinion of the folly of the man who specializes in U. S. cents.

Both are right—and yet in a way both are wrong. If there are over fifty varieties of the 1794 cent, or forty-eight of the ships, colonies and commerce

tokens I am interested in the fact, and want to know it, and I cannot unless some collectors specialize in these series and make the varieties known. In doing so they are helping me. At the same time I am not going out of my way to collect every variety that is known. The Good Book tells us that the gospel should be preached to every creature—but it does not say that every creature should preach the gospel.

As a rule, the general collector derives more pleasure from his coins than the man who specializes in one particular series. I want a variety of food in my meals; one gets tired even of roast chickens if kept on them for any length of time. The coins of the whole world are yours to select from; collect those of the most interest to you. There are the coins of the United States, those of our allies, and the neutral nations, but be patriotic—leave the coins of our enemies severely alone.

Remember, the chief consideration in coins is—condition. Never purchase one that is poor, no matter how rare it is. A young man looking for a wife, or a girl considering a man as a possible husband, is not half so particular as the collector should be in selecting coins for his cabinet.

You compliment me on being a really real Numismatist, but you are wrong. I am only a numismatist without the capital N. You find fault because I did not answer all your queries, but who could? Go easy on the old man; it is impossible to tell you all you want to know in a single letter. It is not good policy to do so. Keep something back. You are doing pretty well in any examination if you answer correctly five questions out of the eight on the paper. And you are allowed to make your own choice. I could write you a learned and chesty article on the coins of Rhoemetalces and Augustus—but what's the use? You would not read it, and if you did—you would not know who Rhoe was. The numismatic monthlies have enough of that sort of dope these days.

You say, referring to some remarks I made in my last letter, that most collectors do not care whether the cataloguer lives or not. That's rank nonsense, boy. Think of the auction sales, their uncertainties, joys and disappointments. We would miss them, and we would miss a good many coins, too, as a cataloguer, through his sales, places coins in the hands of many an isolated collector who is unable to obtain them in any other way. Still—if the cataloguer would only consent to work for nothing, what a much more beautiful world this would be!

I am glad you got a few coins that pleased you, out of that sale. I really take as much pleasure out of preparing my bids, and acquiring my coins, as I do in their possession. If I had all the cash I wanted and could buy coins by the bushel, I would not want them that way. Getting them a few at a time, and lately darned few at a time, is where I get my enjoyment.

But I must not make this letter too long. Be good, renew your subscriptions when due. Pay your auction bills within seven days, and answer your correspondents within two months, and in time you may be entitled to call yourself a really real Numismatist.

UNCLE GEORGE.

THE QUESTION BOX

Over-Dates on Our Cents and Half Cents

Question. "Will you explain in your Monthly how the over-dates in the U. S. big cents come about? Are they forgeries or alterations, trying to get rare dates out of commoner ones? In some of them (the 1800 over 1790 for instance) the earlier date precedes the issue entirely."

We have quoted the above questions in full for the benefit of our readers. They are pertinent and show an intelligent interest in our early coinage of cents. The specialist in this series may skip this paper, he will probably find nothing new to him in it.

"Over-dates" are of two classes: one caused by careless workmanship in the first cutting of the dies, necessitating a correction later. The other class, the true "overdate" on U. S. coins, shows merely the economic and saving sense of the mint employees, in using hubs not worn or spoiled by cracking (during any current year) for the striking of coins at a later date, by substituting a new figure **over** the old (or original) ones, for the new year of issue. The **hub** may be called the original or parent die. When large numbers of a coin are to be struck, a hub is made. The design being cut on it in **relief**, instead of incused as in the die actually used to strike the coin. This die differs from the hub in the same way as a photographic negative differs from a positive. The hub when finished is sunk or struck into the die used in the striking of the actual coin. If this die should break, a fresh one may be made from the hub (or parent die).

"Economy" was the watchword in the early days of our country as it is today, though for a different reason, and she made her home in the mint. It was economy to use a hub or die of hardened steel until no longer useful, because of the expense and skill required to properly engrave new ones. A pair of these dies will, on an average, perform only two weeks' work under modern machine methods, but lasted longer than that time with the early mill and screw method of coining in use until 1836 at the U. S. mint. That was before the days of general coin collecting as we understand it today, and no mint employee had any thought of the many anxious hours that would be devoted by future generations of numismatists to unraveling or guessing at the work —good, poor, or indifferent—coming from their hands at the time in making a circulating medium for the people.

Among the issues of the first class, those caused by careless workmanship, is found the 1809 over '06 (?) U. S. half-cent. The 9 being first sunk **inverted**, (6) which error was afterwards corrected.

In the copper cents, the 1828 large date, "2 over 8," and the 1851 "over 81" are examples of the same class, while the 1833 cent "horned 8" variety, is caused by first sinking the letter S and then altering it to an 8. The workman picking up the S punch instead of the 8 punch, which it resembles. These errors are the result of pure carelessness, and were not intended to make rare varieties for collectors of today.

To the second class belong the half-cents of 1802 "over 1800," and the 1808 "over '07." In the copper cents the first overdate occurs in 1798 "over '97," the last figure, 7 having been altered to an 8, so that the die might do service for another year. Then comes 1799 "over '98," 1800 over 1798, 1799, and 1790 (so-called), 1807 "over '06," 1809 "over '08," 1810 "over '09," 1811 "over '10," 1819 "over '18" large date, 1820 "over '19" both large and small dates, 1823 "over '22," 1824 "over '22," 1826 "over '25," and the 1839 "over '36." All told there are two "overdate" varieties of half-cents, and sixteen of the cents. All 1809 cents are "over '08," and yet an 1810 cent is found "over '09." This shows that the original die was **twice overstruck.** This is the only example of double overdates that we know of.

Regarding the 1800 "over 1790" cent, so often quoted by cataloguers, and which to a young collector may appear like antedating the whole cent series, this should properly be referred to as "over 179 ," the last figure or cypher (the fourth) never having been placed on the hub. It is important to remember this. The date on the old hub was 179 (unfinished). It was made 1800 by stamping 8 over 7, and 0 over 9 = 180 over 179 , and adding the final figure, "0."

This hub with unfinished date 179 , was most probably made in the latter part of 1798, and the engraver did not insert the figure 8, thinking it would be used in 1799, when the last figure could easily be added, but for some reason, it may have been mislaid, it was not needed until 1800, then the 79 was overstruck with 80, making the 1800 "over 170 " variety. At this point it might be well to explain to our questionnairee, that in 1799 only three dies, two of the obverse—one of which is the overdate and the other the plain date, and one of the reverse were used for the few cents struck bearing the 1799 date.

It is true that the mint records shows that 904,585 cents were struck or coined in 1799, but the records do **not** say that **all** of them were **dated** 1799. As the mint records show that 979,700 cents were issued in 1798 (only 75,115 more than the rare date), it is very evident that the **1798 dies** were used in striking most of the cents struck and issued in 1799, making the 1798 so common in comparison with the very rare 1799.

Many stories have been told to explain the rarity of the 1799 cent, and perhaps this simple explanation will not appeal to all our readers like many items they have previously read, but it is a true version nevertheless.

The last "overdate" in our cents—1839 "over '36"—ranks with the 1799 in rarity, and collectors will notice that this variety is not offered for sale even as often as the 1799. This is not the last "overdate" in Uncle Sam's series, however, although since 1869, by law every dated die is supposed to be destroyed on December 31st of each calendar year, yet the mint did use in 1887, an 1886 hub in striking a few proof nickel three-cent pieces—the 1887 "over '86." Whether more and later issues will appear from the same source, still remains to be seen.

N. B.—It is true Scott's catalogue gives several other "overdates," such as half-cents of 1803 "over '02," and 1805 "over '03," but they do not exist as far as we know.

The Burton Collection

We are pleased to be able to publish on the opposite page a likeness of Mr. John E. Burton, of Milwaukee, whose entire numismatic collection will be sold at auction by B. Max Mehl, of Fort Worth, Texas, in the latter part of April.

Mr. John E. Burton, of Milwaukee, Wis., was born in New Hartford, N. Y., October 19, 1847, and has been an eager and successful collector ever since boyhood. He began active life as a teacher; then established and edited a newspaper, and after serving for many years as the general manager in the Northwest of one of the large life insurance companies of New York, turned his attention to mining and the development of the Goebic and Penokee ranges. He founded the village of Hurley, Wis., erecting stores, residences, foundries, and hotels, and later extended the field of his operations to California, and finally to Alaska.

Although Mr. Burton collected fine books on a great variety of subjects, and made remarkable collections of coins, minerals, and relics, it is as a collector of Lincoln material that he is best known, and as he was an enthusiastic admirer of Lincoln, a lecturer on Lincoln's life and character, and in close touch with Lincoln collectors and Lincoln societies, his collection grew rapidly to large proportions, and when his Lincoln library was sold at auction some few years ago, it was pronounced as the largest collection of printed material regarding Abraham Lincoln that has ever been offered for sale.

His numismatic inclinations were not for any specialties; anything of interest and beauty appealed to him, and his collection, which is to be sold in April, will be found to be one of the interesting numismatic offerings for the season.

NUMISMATIC RANDOM REELS
BY DELMONT L. ANGELL

How Coin Collection Promotes Habits of Thrift

In reading the December number of Mehl's Numismatic Monthly my eye fell upon the announcement by B. Max Mehl of an approaching sale of a part of the coin collection of John E. Burton of Milwaukee. I then recalled an incident in this gentleman's active life that dovetailed to an extent with the topic to which I desired to give expression in this article. Mr. Burton, whose activities in mining operations, building projects and various industries have spanned a period of two-score years, at one time was the possessor of a fortune printed in seven figures, and the first of which was not "one." He has always been an ardent collector of pretty much everything, specializing in Lincolnia, and his collection along that line was as complete as any in America. Several years ago he uncovered a particularly choice collection of stamps, owned, if my memory serves me right, by a gentleman in the beautiful town of Geneva, Wis. Mr. Burton asked the man if his collection was for sale and was informed that it was, provided he could get what he wanted for it. When asked to state his price, the owner of the collection sai l he would trade

John E. Burton

his stamps for the Burton Hotel. After a hesitation of about fifteen seconds, which is about as long as Mr. Burton ever hesitates about anything, his offer was accepted. The collection afterward brought $30,000, and the hotel several times that amount in earnings to the gentleman who invested his money in stamps and bought "good" stamps! I will relate one incident to illustrate Mr. Burton's character: He had bought a mine in Colorado, sold stock and guaranteed certain dividends to the holders thereof in a specified time. The mine had not earned a dividend, and when a friend dropped into Mr. Burton's office on that date he found him facing a pile of signed checks. **They were for the stockholders and to cancel their holdings in the mine which had not "panned out"!** Certainly integrity was in the flower at that period!

Before the big holiday rush of buyers bent on observing Christmas as had always been their wont, the Government importuned the people in various ways to refrain from foolish expenditures and loan their money to the good old U. S. A. for the prosecution of the war. After the smoke of battle has blown away it is found that not only have the people nobly responded to the request of the Government, but at the same time have piled up an aggregate volume of holiday business greater than has ever been recorded in the country's history! All this makes for a new era of thrift and prosperity and augurs well for the future of this great and glorious nation. It likewise speaks well for the business acumen of our great and growing populace, so cosmopolitan in its character that it is a task to enumerate even the racial types that have entered the melting cauldron.

A layman would naturally suppose that interest in the collecting of coins would show a tendency to wane at a period when the center of interest in the minds of about 99 per cent of the people is in the war and its ultimate outcome. It only requires but a moment's glance at the priced catalogues of the dealers who regularly hold auctions to establish the fact that the competitive interest is just as keen as in times of peace—in fact, more so. Why this is the case, I will not attempt to explain, other than to venture the statement that any form of collecting pursued with discrimination is an evidence of thrift. And none more so than the rational assembling of coins. And when to thrift is added the attendant increase of knowledge derived from their study and proper classification, the pursuit is clothed with a dignity that rises far above the misapplied terms of hobby, fad, or sometimes even worse—"coin bugs!"

I personally know and esteem one collector in the East who attributes all he has in worldly goods and the major portion of his knowledge of history simply to cultivating coin collecting as a form of diversion. And this diversion has culminated in his ownership of a $10,000 home—bought and paid for through the stimulus of collecting—and at little if any sacrifice of the worth while things of life. He had simply been a drifter during the early years of his life, and nothing like thrift or collecting had ever overlapped his mental horizon. But one day he was given a few early United States cents by a friend, who was imbued with so much enthusiasm over his pet hobby that a little of this enthusiasm penetrated under the skin, with the result that from that moment he was a disciple of the cult and has never since lost his interest in coin collecting. And with his modest beginning was born the desire to know more of the historical data of the countries of the world and their rulers. Thus was his mental vision broadened and his knowledge widened to a far greater extent than otherwise would have been the case.

This is but one of several similar cases that have come to my attention where interest in numismatics has led into other channels whereby these gentlemen have improved themselves in a mental, financial, and I might also add—moral—manner. For certain it is that the man who finds the money to purchase coins to add to his collection will likewise find the money to pay his just debts; and while not many of us will be so fortunate as to safeguard our future through the medium of a fad, I do maintain that the collector who buys along sensible lines need have small fear as to the collateral value of his investment.

Apropos of this line of reasoning, the wife of a collector recently put the question up to the writer in concrete form. She stated that her husband had a great deal of money tied up in his collection of coins and asked my advice as to their disposition should anything happen to him. I informed my inquirer that she should procure the names of the several reputable coin dealers who hold auctions at regular intervals, get in touch with one of them, and that her interests would receive proper and safe attention. Later I was informed by the husband that such had been his intention and the subject matter was already reduced to writing among his private papers.

While this suggestion is not intended for the collector of unlimited resources, there are no doubt scores of others of moderate incomes whose collections represent their savings, and to the latter class it may be of material benefit.

The Springfield Coin Club

The 63rd meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held in the rooms of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, March 13th, 1918, with Vice President W. S. Fuller in the chair. Members present (8), Messrs. Curtis, Fuller, Morse, Pond, Oliver, Prevost, Stone and Morris. Visitors (2).

The minutes of the previous meeting and the report of the Treasurer were not read because the Secretary was very late in arriving. The name of Julien A. Whipple of 48 Pearl Street, occupation broker, was proposed for membership, being recommended by our fellow member, Horace D. McCowan. Mr. Whipple's application was laid on the table in accordance with our By-Laws.

A special entertainment consisting of an exhibit and auction of ancient and modern coins was given, after which the meeting adjourned.

A. W. MORRIS, Secretary.

Chicago Numismatic Society

The February meeting of Branch One, A. N. A., was held Friday evening, February 8, at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago. The following members were present: Messrs. Kelly, Ripstra, Becker, Josephson, Lawless, Jonas, Leon, Bohrisch, and Davis.

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly. After the transaction of routine business Mr. Davis read a paper on "The Circulating Medium of the American Colonies," which was illustrated with many coins of the colonial period.

The other exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Josephson: Spanish 4 Real Piece counterstamped by Costo Rico, a fine medal of Frederick the Great, and a medal of the Franco-Prussian War.

By Mr. Jonas: Large medal of King Karl of Wurttemberg, and an extremely fine Wood's half-penny. Two large bronzes of Galerius Valerius with different reverses.

By Mr. Brown: Uncirculated sets of copper coins from Java, French Congo and Morocco.

By Mr. Kelly: Virginia half-cent, uncirculated, Maryland shilling, and four fifteen-cent notes with wide margins, two with red backs, and autograph signatures of Allison and Spinner, one with green back and engraved signatures, and one with red back with engraved signatures of Colby and Spinner.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

The March meeting of Branch One, A. N. A., was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Friday, March 8. The following members were present: Messrs. Kelly, Lawless, Josephson, Leon, Becker, Jonas, Michael, Ripstra, and Davis. Mrs. Ripstra, Miss Naerup and Miss Emily Leon were present as visitors.

President Kelly called the meeting to order. Routine business was transacted, and several members told of their greatest disappointments in collecting coins. Messrs. Leon, Becker, Josephson and Ripstra all had hard luck tales, which were greatly enjoyed by all present.

The exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Davis: Rosa Americana Half Penny, and eighteen fine and uncirculated large copper cents.

By Mr. Kelly: 1836 Dollar, Proof, and a number of patterns which included the half dollars of 1836, 1838, 1859, 1869, and 1870, and the quarters of 1869 and 1870, and the dimes of the same years.

By Mr. Lawless: Ten very fine and uncirculated early copper cents.

By Mr. Leon: Nine examples of the four varieties of the Hawaiian cent of 1847, and a cent of 1799 in unusual condition.

By Mr. Josephson: Hudson-Fulton medal, Nurnberg medal dated 1765, and some English Tradesmen tokens from Gloscester, dated 1797.

By Mr. Jonas: Quarter, half and one rupee piece from German East Africa, and first bronzes of Nero, Galba, Domitian, Vespasian, Caligula, and Antonius Pius.

The meeting was adjourned to the second Friday in April.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

Rochester Numismatic Association

Hotel Rochester, Tuesday, March 19, 1918.

The 142nd meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association was called to order by President H. H. Yawger.

Members present: Dr. French, Messrs. Koeb, Horner, Woodbury, Bauer, Putnam, Savage, Raymond, Woolsey, Maunovry, Burling, Plumb, L. G. Amberg, Borradaile, Yawger, Crandall, Gillette, Loizeau, Simmonds.

Mr. Maunovry reported that he called on Dr. Handler during the day and found the Doctor much improved.

Mr. Putnam, curator of the Rochester Municipal Museum, and one of

our other members, told us about the improvements the city intends making at the Museum, and the intention is to give the R. N. A. a room for itself large enough to hold twelve cases for our exhibit. When completed, the building will be as near fire and burglar proof as possible. In discussing the matter, it was the general concensus of opinion that we would have no trouble to fill the twelve cases. Mr. Bauer's collection of Chinese coins and Washington medals will require a lot of space. Mr. Gillette, Dr. French and others also indicated their intention of placing their collections on exhibit.

Upon motion, made by Mr. Bauer, a unanimous vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Putnam for his efforts in behalf of the R. N. A.

Motion made that one of our 1917 Anniversary Medals with portrait of F. E. Merritt presented to the R. N. A., and to the American Numismatic Society of New York.

After the meeting an auction was held, Mr. Bauer acting as auctioneer. Meeting adjourned to April 2, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

New York Numismatic Club

Regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held at the Park Avenue Hotel, Friday evening, March 8, 1918, with President Dr. D. W. Valentine presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Belden, Dr. Burke, Boyd, Chapman, Elder, Frey, Newell, Proskey, Smith, Swanson, Wood, Wormser, Valentine. Visitor, Chas. Schmall.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary reported the receipt of a copy of Mr. Wormser's work on the Luther and the Reformation Medals.

Executive Committee report: The topic of the next meeting was announced to be "The Coins of Denmark."

The Treasurer was asked to furnish a list of any delinquent members.

Publication Committee: Reported that the Publication Committee of last year has the matter of the Year Book well in hand.

It was suggested that a notice of meetings of the New York Numismatic Club be sent to the New York Sun for publication under its heading, Events of Today, in order to give persons who might be interested an opportunity to come to our meetings. This resulted in a rather interesting discussion pro and con. It was moved that newspapers which print the current events of the day be given a notice of our meetings. When put to a vote the original motion was lost, but an amendment moving that the Secretary be appointed to send invitations to such institutions or persons as he might deem proper, using if necessary the mailing list of the Numismatic Societies, was carried by a small majority.

The subject of the evening was next taken up, being "The Coins of Venice."

Mr. Edward T. Newell spoke, saying the only Venetian coins he was interested in were the Zecchini, because those coins also passed current among the Arabs, in Malta and possibly Rhodes. The copper imitations were struck in England for use in Arabia and Abyssinia. He exhibited several interesting pieces, including three silver imitations of Zecchini struck in the East (probably in the Balkan peninsula).

Mr. Wormser spoke of the medallic thalers of Canton of Grisons on the treaty with the Republic of Venace, the treaty being between neutrals to protect their rights. He exhibited the thalers described.

Mr. Heaton spoke of his collection of Venetian pieces made during his trips to Europe.

Mr. Proskey spoke of the various Venetian issues and mentioned Doge Nicholas Trono as the only doge who had ever had his head put on a coin. He mentioned the origin of the word Osella and stated that the museum in Venice possessed the only complete collection of Osellas in existence. He made a large exhibit representing 55 out of 79 rulers. One interesting large silver medal commemorated the repulse of the Turks.

Dr. Valentine spoke at some length. He said the right to coin their own money was confirmed by the Emperor Rudolph of Burgundy to Doge Orse Participazo II in A. D. 912. In the crusade (1119) the Doge Domenico Michieli became short of funds while aiding Baldwin, King of Jerusalem, at the siege of Tyre, so he cut coins of leather and promised to exchange them for good money on their return to Venice. Another historian states that it was the custom of the early Doges to make coronation presents of wild ducks, which custom in time became difficult, owing to lack of game, so the Doge Lorenzo Celsi in 1361 gave a sum of money. In 1521 the Grand Council permitted Doge Antonio Grimani to substitute a silver medal, which was called Osella (Venetian for bird). This continued until 1789, to Doke Ludovico Manin.

Vice President Frey gave a brief history of Venice and illustrated his discourse with various exhibits. A large number of types, the speaker said, originated in Venice, and he gave the history of the matapan, zecchina osella, bagattino, lira, giustina, gazetta, etc. Among his exhibits were early types of the zecchini of the fifteenth century, and coins of the provisional government of Lombardy-Venice of 1848, etc.

Henry Chapman exhibited 16 Venetian gold Zecchini, a large 12 Zecchini piece of Paulo Renier, 1779-1789, from Lord Dillon's collection, a 20 Lire piece of the Republic, 1848, also 68 ducatoons and osellas from 1343 to 1848; also some private gold, U. S. patterns, and a "Pattern Dime" with the head of Jefferson Davis, etc.

Mr. Guttag exhibited paper money "Buono di Cassa" 1 and 2 lire.

The members were thanked for their remarks and exhibits.

The meeting thereupon adjourned.

THOS. L. ELDER, Secretary and Treasurer.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States, 50 cents a year; Canada and Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, MAY, 1918 No. 5

With The Editor

Uncle Sam Melting Silver Dollars Into Bullion

It is proposed at Washington that 250,000,000 silver dollars now in the U. S. Treasury shall be melted and turned into bullion as an emergency war measure. As silver is now selling at near one dollar an ounce, this means a nice little profit for Uncle Sam. If this action is carried out it will virtually fix a standard price for silver at one dollar an ounce. This melting of silver dollars held by the Treasury against the silver certificates now in circulation may have the effect of making dollars of certain dates scarce, and consequently increase their value to collectors. Happy in this case will be those who have put away choice specimens in their collections. But even as it is, choice specimens of common dates are scarce, and it is safe to say they will become even more so in the future. The long despised U. S. trade dollar will come into its own again, and be able to hold up its head, which has long hung in shame. No longer will they go begging around at forty-five per cent discount. For the first time in many years, the common dates will be practically worth their face value.

Common Foreign Silver Dollars Increase in Value

These are also sharing in the good times and have increased in value here. No longer will the silver dollars of Mexico, the South American republics, Hong Kong, Japan, etc., be purchasable at from forty to sixty cents each. Those who have made this series a feature of their collections may congratulate each other and smile at their good fortune.

Foreign War Medals for Our Boys at the Front

Increased interest will be taken in the military medals given by our Allies for bravery in the field and under fire. Our own troops fighting with our Allies against the common foe, are to be granted permission to accept, and wear, any medal or decoration conferred on them by the Allies. Nor is this all. Reciprocity in the bestowal of all military medals will be the rule, and Belgian, British, French, Italian and Portuguese soldiers will share with our own the honors and decorations given for conspicuous service by our govern-

ment. The American soldier will be no less American because he wears the coveted British Victoria Cross, or the Croix de Guerre of the gallant French.

As we write this, our boys are fighting gallantly against great odds in France. The greatest battle in the history of the world is being fought, and our boys are doing their share. Some will win medals. Many will win a glorious death. May the result be VICTORY.

Coins As An Investment

We were recently asked by a correspondent: "What are the best coins to collect, looking upon the money spent on them as an investment?" Not being a prophet, or able to see the particular series which will be in special favor in ten or twenty years' time, we hesitate to speak with any assumed authority. Doubtless some series that command high prices today will not be in as great demand or favor ten years hence. And some coins that are comparatively cheap today will then be worth much more. We may be reasonably sure of one thing. The study of priced catalogues will prove it. The coins issued by our own government, the regular series, have advanced considerably in value during the last decade, and will most probably advance still more during the next.

The rare dates of U. S. gold, silver; and copper cents in choice condition, the private issues of gold coins in the U. S. will never be less than they are at the present time.

We think also that the early hammered gold and silver coins of Great Britain and France will increase in value after the war, owing to the greater interest taken in the history and coinage of our Allies. But while it is permissible to look upon the money spent in coins as an investment, there is another side to the question.

The collector should not consider his collection as a gold mine from which he expects to reap fat dividends. "The real collector does not buy his coins as he does stocks and bonds, as paying investments. The joy of possessing something that no one else has, is the dividend he wants."

The Coins of Liberia

The news that in the first half of April a German submarine shelled Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, and sunk the Liberian navy—(an armoured ship, the President Grant)—did not cause as much alarm in this country as if the underseas boat had left its visiting cards in New York city. It is interesting to remember the connection between the United States and Liberia—founded in 1822 by American philanthropists for the settlement of freed slaves. Up to 1847 it was practically an American colony. In 1847 it was recognized as a sovereign state by Great Britain, and in 1862 by the United States.

In 1833 the American Colonization Society (founded in 1816) issued the well-known Liberian cent bearing that date. There are three varieties of this coin, differing in size of tree, ship, bush, man and rays on obverse. This coin might be considered our first colonial, as Liberia was the earliest U. S. colony outside the so-called "States."

1833 is the year England abolished slavery throughout her Empire, and a

Papal bull issued in that year, arrayed against the institution the opposition of the Church. 1833 is indeed a year to be remembered in the annals of Freedom.

The 1847-1862 one and two-cent pieces, Head of Liberty, with the tree reverse, are handsome coins and are still easily obtained.

Advertising Good for Business

No wide-awake firm today attempts to run a business without plenty of advertising. Even the churches fall into line and announce their services. Perhaps it may be infra dignitatem for a Numismatic Club to follow suit. It might result in an accession to the membership. Still worse things than this might happen. It might be as well to remember that there are always collectors living in every large city who are not aware of the existence of such clubs, and who, if given a chance, would be pleased to meet others interested in the hobby. Out of this class desirable members might be obtained. Of course, application for membership does not guarantee election. The desirability of applicants can be ascertained by regular means.

Dr. F. A. Hassler

The many friends of Dr. F. A. Hassler, of Santa Ana, Cal., will hear with deep regret of his serious illness. Dr. Hassler is, above all, a close student of coins and many papers from his pen have appeared in past issues of Our Monthly, and the Numismatist. Our sincerest sympathy is with him in his hours of suffering.

Currency In China

The trade of China is hampered by one of the most confused and chaotic systems of currency, on a silver basis, in the world, the intricacies of which are understood by comparatively few people. Theoretically the tael is the unit of currency for foreign and Chinese commerce, and is subdivided decimally into mace, candareens, and cash (1 tael = 10 mace, 1 mace = 10 candareens, 1 candareen = to cash). It, however, is not a coin, but a weight of silver of a certain degree of fineness, and it varies in weight, in touch, and in value in different parts of the country. Every commercial center in China not only has its own tael weight, but several standards side by side. The tael of weight is the liang, or ounce, of China, and 16 taels make 1 catty, or Chinese pround (1 1-3 pounds avoirdupois).

The Various Taels in Circulation.

Of the numerous taels of currency, two may be considered as being in universal use, the haikwan, or "cutoms," tael and the kuping, or "treasury," tael; a third, the tsaoping, or "tribute," tael, is current over a considerable part of the country. The haikwan tael is the currency in which tariff duties imposed by the Maritime Customs are levied, but it is purely a fictitious currency and at no port does a merchant tender haikwan taels in payment of duties; instead he pays in local currency at a rate of exchange settled upon at the opening of each of the several customs offices. At Shanghai the rate of

conversion is fixed at 100 haikwan taels = 111.40 Shanghai taels. The Shanghai tael contains 524.93 grains of pure silver, which makes the haikwan tael the equivalent of 584 grains. Due allowance, however, must be made for the quality, or "touch," of the silver. When the merchant does not have at hand the fine silver (992.3 fine) for the payment of duties, he must obtain it from a banker by private arrangement. The value of the haikwan tael in foreign currency is fixed monthly by the Maritime Customs authorities. In 1914 the average value in American currency was $0.67.

The kuping tael is the currency in which all duties to the Government except customs duties and those which are levied in kind or copper cash are paid. The standard kuping tael is 575.8 grains of silver, 1,000 fine, but there is a variation in some cases as much as 1 per cent in different parts of the country. Where the foreign obligations of the Crinese Government are concerned, the equivalent of the several surrencis is 100 haikwan taels = 101.64235 kuping taels, and 100 kuping taels = 109.60 Shanghai taels.

The tsaoping tael is current in Provinces which pay tribute in kind (mainly rice), and it is also in use at Chefoo. Subject to slight variation, it weighs 565.65 grains. As a tael of currency, it is based on different standards of silver. The standard at Chefoo is 976, at Kiukiang and Wuhu 994, at Hangchow 997, and at Shanghai 999.

Apart from the various Government taels, every commercial place has several local taels, all generally recognized and all current. Usually among these various taels there is one which is recognized as the currency of the place, in which payments would be made when there is no stipulation to the contrary. In Peking there is no one recognized tael, but the Tientsin tael of 557.6 grains of silver, 992 fine, is the generally acceptedtael at Tientsin; th Hankow tael of 554.7 grains of silver, 967 fine, at Hankow; and the Sze-ma, or Canton tael, of 579.85 grains of silver (theoretically 1,000 fine, but in practice of a lower degree of fineness), at Canton.

At Shanghai the Canton tael is used for dealings in foreign bar silver, the tsaoping tael for Chinese remittances through Chineses banks to places in China, and the Shanghai tael, or "Shanghai convention currency," for local banking and trading purposes. The value of the latter is made up of three elements—the weight, the quality of silver, and a convention. The weight on the scale is 524.93 grains, the silver is reduced to a standard of 944 fine, and the convention is that 98 taels of this weight and this silver settle a liability of 100 taels Shanghai convention currency. At the present time (June, 1915) the value of the Shanghai tael in United States currency is $0.55.

Silver Shoes (Sycee) and Copper Cash.

The silver in China is most commonly surrent in oval ingots called "shoes," which weigh from 5 to 50 taels, and the silver in the shoe is known as "sycee." In the interior of the country, outside the treaty ports and among the mass of population, silver is not extensively circulated and is used mainly for the purpose of hoarding. Frequently the Chinese who secure silver coins melt them up into sycee. But when very large payments are made, the shoes of sycee are employed and they are accepted at their actual weight and degree of fineness.

The real currency of the people of China is the copper cash, one of which equals one one-thousandth part of a tael. Thsi is its theoretical value,: but in

practice the value varies from 800 to 1,800 or 2,000 cash to the tael, and it is not uniform throughout the country. Cash (from the Sanskrit "karsha") are small round coins with a square hole in the center and they are strung on strings in rolls of 100, of which 10 go to the string, or "tiao." The money changers usually deduct 1 to 4 cash for their trouble in stringing and for the string. In Shanghai at the present time the Shanghai tael is worth 1,925 cash, whereas a year ago it was worth only a little over 1,700 cash. The depreciation in value of the cash has a very serious effect on the mass of the people and considerably restricts their purchasing power. A piece of gray sheeting, for example, may be quoted in an interior city at 4 taels. The native, at the present rate of exchange, would have to pay 7,700 cash for the piece as compared with only 6,800 cash a year ago. In addition to the 1-cash piece there are 10-cash copper coins, or cents, which, however, are not always exchanged at their face value.

Foreign Coins—Chinese Dollars—Currency Reform.

The growth of foreign trade and the objection of the foreigners and merchants in the treaty ports to carrying around the heavy silver sycee, or shoes, and cash, led to the introduction into China of a number of foreign coins of which the principal ones were the Carolus, or Spanish, dollar; the Mexican, or eagle, dollar; and the Japanese yen, or dollar. Of these the Mexican dollar is in most general use and it is current in many of the treaty ports of China. Its exchange value is expressed in relation to the tael. At the present time the rate of exchange is 100 Mexican dollars = 72.80 Shanghai taels. Taking the Shanghai tael at $0.55 United States currency, this makes the value of the Mexican dollar about $0.40.

The Chinese have also issued 10 or more different kinds of dollars, but their great disadvantage has been that they are at a discount in all the Provinces except the one in which they are minted. There are also in circulation a number of subsidiary silver coins known as 10-cent and 20-cent pieces, which are nominally fractional parts of a dollar but are stamped with a tael value, the 10-cent piece, for instance, being stamped as 7.2 candareens. The ratio which these coins bear to the dollar varies considerably. At times ten 10-cent pieces and four 10-cash pieces, or 114 cents, may be obtained from a money changer for a Mexican or Chinese dollar, while at other times only ten 10-cent pieces are given in exchange. In recent years the provincial mints in China have been permitted to issue silver and copper subsidiary coinage for purposes of revenue, and this has led to an enormous overissue and consequent depreciation in the value of these coins.

In January, 1914, a new regulation went into effect by which it is hoped that some measure of reform in the currency of China may be effected. Under this regulation the right of minting and issuance of national currency is confined to the central Government. Provision is made for four kinds of silver coins, the yuan or dollar, the ½-yuan, 20-cent pieces, and 10-cent pieces; one kind of nickel coin, the 5-cent piece; and five kinds of copper coins, the 2-cent piece, the 1-cent piece, and one half, one quarter and one sixth of a cent pieces. In order to facilitate the carrying out of the provisions of the act, the Government is melting up all the dollars formerly in circulation that are received in payment of taxes and replacing them with the new standard dollars, which are made legal tender throughout the country. Every effort is being made, through the large Chinese banks and governmental support, to give to

the new coins a fixed and uniform value in all parts of China, and it is expected that they will gradually replace the numerous kinds of monew now in circulation that add to the confused and chaotic state of the country's currency.

Paper Money in Circulation.

Paper money has been issued from time to time by the central or provincial governments and by private individuals and banks. Formerly there was little restriction on the amount that could be issued, and the large quantity of notes in circulation that in financial crises the banks frequently could not redeem has caused them to depreciate in value or to become practically worthless. At present, notes are issued by the foreign and Chinese banks only in the local currency of the places in which they are situated, the issues being restricted by their own regulations. These notes, which are in dollars, are redeemed by the banks at their face value; but a note for, say, 5 dollars, issued by a bank at Shanghai is slightly discounted by the branch of the bank at Tientsin, Hankow, or any other city when presented for redemption.

—From Special Agents Series, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Proof Coins

They Are Always Struck From New and Specially Prepared Dies.

Proof coins have been struck at the Philadelphia mint for many years, but at no other mint, to be sold to collectors. A premium of about 10 per cent is charged when a lot includes coins of all denominations. For minor proof sets, however, when ordered separately, a little more than double the face value is charged.

The coins are struck from new and specially prepared dies on planchets previously burnished, a hand press instead of the regular steam press being used. When there is a smooth field around the raised portion of a coin the burnishing gives the surface a lasting brilliancy that is very attractive.

Our silver coins still have such a field, but the gold coins, particularly the $5 and $2.50 pieces, and the minor coins no longer present this desirable feature. In fact, outside of the lines being a little finer, proofs of these coins differ little in appearance from pieces struck for regular circulation.

The incused inscriptions on the gold coins do not harmonize with the field as did the old raised inscriptions, while on the minor coins the field is not smooth, and the nickel has really no field, an excess of lettering disfiguring what is not monopolized by the Indian head and the buffalo. The $20 and $10 pieces present artistic designs, but proofs of these coins are far from being as attractive as were those of the old designs. —Pittsburgh Press.

Quaint Coins

Among the strangest coins in the world are those used in certain out-of-the-way towns and villages in Southwest Algeria, on the west coast of Africa, and called manilas. In shape they resemble a horseshoe, with the two extremities flatted out like a camel's foot. Being made of solid copper, three-eighths inch thick, they weigh over eight ounces each. In "face value" seven of these queer coins are about equivalent to a quarter, so that a dollar's worth would be an uncomfortably heavy load.

NUMISMATIC RANDOM REELS
BY DELMONT L. ANGELL

Down on the shore of Barnegat Bay, which in some respects is as primitive as a hundred years ago, I once saw a collections of coins that were as lost to numismatists as those that repose in the cases of the historical societies and museums throughout the country. High up on the banks of this famous haven of Izaac Waltonians there rested for many years the hulk of an old schooner which had either been cast up by the elements or beached by its captains as a fitting place to be lulled asleep by the rhythm of the sea—that sea of which it had long been master to the benefit of mankind! Why I mentioned coins to an old fisherman nearby, I know not; but I did. And then he told me that inside that relic of the old-time sailing craft were "clinchers" that appeared to be big copper coins. That was enough to awaken my interest and in a very few moments we pulled up alongside the wreck. Sure enough, on the inside of what had once served as the rail, we found rows of copper discs "holed" that served to calk or reinforce the timbers. From their worn and corroded condition it required the closest inspection to reveal the fact that they were coins of a very early period. Among them were colonial pieces, early cents and tokens of that time that are now listed and recognized as coins of the colonies. I had quite forgotten the incident until one day in New York I picked up a rare variety of New Jersey cent in almost uncirculated condition, but with a clean, pierced hole in the center. I showed the coin and related the circumstances to Mr. P——, a well-known numismatist and at the same time put to him the question as to why colonial coins were of seeming less interest to collectors generally than other series, especially the cents. He said perhaps that was one of the reasons which I had just shown him. They were very hard to get in nice condition—that the common ones were very common and the rare ones very rare. How true this is may be gleaned from a glance at coin catalogues. For instance, some of the Vermont varieties that are priced low for those classifying good or very good could not be obtained in a near uncirculated condition no matter what would be offered. And this is also true of the New York varieties. It is, therefore, to be presumed that the use to which those coins were put on the old sailing boat furnishes a good answer as to their scarcity.

◇ ◇ ◇

On the wall of the best room in a quaint little old house in Belleville, N. J., a suburb of Newark, hung for many years a frame, within which was arranged a collection of coins of some value and considerable interest. There was a set of all the dates of the United States cents, a few choice half cents and one or two colonial coins of great rarity. The family frequently spoke of a deceased relative of the name Smith, who, it was stated, was a noted author-

ity on coins, but that they (the family) did not know the value of the collection. The frame and its contents were known to be for sale, and it must have been seen and examined by someone interested in numismatics. Finally, along came the right man and he asked as to the genuinesess of all the coins. The spokesman for the house said she did not know as to that, but supposed they were. The prospective purchaser made a flat offer of $100 as it was. I happened to call at the home of the purchaser as he was removing the last tacks from the board and began to examine a few of the pieces of his supposed "find." The first one I picked up was an 1847 half cent with an italic "7." From that I went to a New Jersey colonial with the horse's head facing the left. The head had been removed in some mysterious manner known only to the coin manicure and placed in reversed position in the field, etched smooth on one of the common varieties. How this turning process was ever accomplished and still showed the head in relief is enigmatical, and only the long departed Smith could explain it. Then came a liberty cap, 1793, made from a 1794, which must have been comparatively easy to the coin doctor. A finely altered cent to 1799 was next brought to light that has also been a source of mystery, inasmuch as it has been placed besides hundreds of coins in the endeavor to discover the date and variety of the cent originally. So far all tests have failed, but the bad company it had chosen precluded any possibility of its being a variety unique. The reverses of many scarce pieces were uncirculated and in sharp contrast to the obverses which had stood many a hard rubbing from a none too soft dust cloth during the many years the collection had graced that wall. In spite of these classical counterfeits those that were genuine were well worth the price paid for the collection, which furnished amusement as well as amazement to those who saw it. The world has furnished innumerable Mysterious Smiths, but none more so than this coin "camouflaguer!"

◇ ◇ ◇

Apropos of the preceding paragraph, somebody must have slipped over fictitious rarities very frequently in the early days of collecting. Now, however, there are so many ways to test the genuineness of coins, and such safeguards to check their circulation by reputable dealers, that seldom does one get by anybody with half a knowledge of the subject. The majority of coins that were rare fifty years ago are naturally rare today—and one would judge they ought to be much rarer. It is not very long ago that I saw a catalogue of retail prices for early United States issues. It was printed in 1860, in the form of a long, narrow handbill. In this list the 1799 cent was quoted at $50 for one in fine condition! The difference in present prices for that particular coins shows less change than one would naturally suppose, considering the increased demand created by the great increase in the number of collectors. So the temptation must have been strong with some who were adept with an engraving tool to engage in this work. Nor was it always done with a view to profit, for in one collection that I viewed I found an uncirculated 1813 cent altered to an 1815! Think of that piece of vandalism! And another instance of the "hair-combing" process being inflicted on a 1796 cent that would have graded extremely fine. In another collection of considerable merit, recently I saw a spurious 1799. The gentleman informed me it was a 1799 over '98. It was that all right. But it will have to be someone else who enlightens him as to what kind of a 1798 cent it was over.

INFLATION

What We Mean Now by the Term, and What Our Forefathers Meant—The Story of the "Continentals"—The Arguments Advanced.

Nothing has been more bandied about in stock market circles in the last few weeks than the word "inflation." The talk has lately been precipitated by the somewhat loose discussion of the "War Finance Corporation" bill. Cranks have written to newspapers urging short and easy methods of paying for the war. Actual fiat paper money is a far cry from what anybody now, save these last-mentioned people, has in mind. Still, when such talk is being revived, it is interesting to recall a former war financed almost wholly by that method.

Our forefathers, during the Revolution, were impelled to resort to paper money by special circumstances. With no power to tax, Congress felt unable to make loans; it believed the issue of paper money to be the only path left open. And one delegate in Congress asked, with unspeakable scorn, why he should vote to tax the people, when a Philadelphia printing-press could turn out money by the bushel.

After some opposition and confusion, Congress, in June, 1775, authorized an issue of $2,000,000 in "Continental currency," in denominations of $1 to $8 and of $20. Franklin urged that they bear interest, but this was rejected. In July a second issue of $1,000,000 was authorized. The bills were to be sunk by taxes in four successive years, beginning 1779, the taxes to be levied and collected by the States in proportion to their population. In November a further issue of $3,000,000 was voted.

The bills were not made legal tender. Congress had no power to make them so. But in 1776 depreciation set in, and Congress recommended, in January, 1777, that the several States makes them legal-tender, which one by one they did.

In 1776 Congress authorized the issue of $19,000,000; in 1777, $13,000,000 more; making the total so far $38,000,000. The States had issued in the same period about $10,000,000. Committees were formed to attend to discriminators against paper money. They were declared enemies. Part of their goods were seized. Nearly every one recanted and promised amendment. Yet the number of offenders increased continually.

In 1778 came further issues of $63,500,000. At the end of the year the ratio to coin, as officially fixed by Congress, was 100 to 13½. Actually the rating by Congress was too favorable to the paper currency. In 1779 the issue exceeded $140,000,000, thus making a total of over $241,500,000, although a limit of $200,000,000 had been resolved upon. Counterfeiting had run rampant. In 1779 the official rating to coin was about 100 to 3½.

Meanwhile, all governmental and mob threats and punishments having failed to stop depreciation, price-fixing had been tried. For imported goods retailers were not to charge more than 20 per cent advance. It was enacted in Rhode Island that buildings containing any goods needed by the community and withheld might be broken open and the contents sold at statutory prices. When the prices failed of their object, new prices were fixed—fourfold the prices of 1774, then eightfold, tenfold, twenty-fold. Terrorism was applied to enforce decrees. Country folks accused town folks of extortion. They threatened to come in and take what they wanted by force. Town folks accused country folks of withholding their produce. In October, 1779, Boston was on the verge of starvation; money transactions had nearly ceased, and business was done by barter.

In May, 1779, two regiments of Connecticut troops revolted on account of their bad pay. Although it had been twice raised by Congress, a soldier's pay had dropped by depreciation from $7 a month to 33 cents. Washington could not move his soldiers to Yorktown till Robert Morris had borrowed hard money from Rochambeau for their back pay.

In March, 1780, Congress tried the expedient of new bills, into which the old bills were convertible at 40 to 1 (though their actual depreciation was 60 to 1). Depreciation went on more rapidly than before. The new bills started at a depreciation of 2 to 1, became 3 to 1 before they reached the army, and dropped to 6 for 1 in a few months. The old bills went at a galloping pace down to 500 to 1 in Philadelphia, circulated furiously for a while, and then ceased altogether.

Some prices are not without interest. In October, 1780, Indian corn sold wholesale in Boston for $150 a bushel, butter was $12 a pound, tea $90, sugar $10, beef $8, coffee $12, and a barrel of flour cost $1,575. Samuels Adams paid $2,000 for a hat and suit of clothes. "Not worth a Continental" became the strongest possible expression of contempt. A barber in Philadelphia papered his shop with bills.

In May, 1781, Congress recommended that the States repeal their legal-tender laws. They did so, and adopted tables showing how much the money was worth in specie at various times and how disputed accounts should be settled. The tables were notoriously incorrect. The one recommended by Congress placed the currency at par in September, 1777, whereas it was worth at that time only 33 cents on the dollar. Finally, in August, 1790, Congress provided for funding the bills in 6 per cent bonds "at the rate of one hundred dollars in the said bills for one dollar in specie." Only $7,000,000 was turned in under this provision.

Franklin wrote in 1779: "The extravagant luxury of our country in the midst of all its distresses is to me amazing." Another writer says: "Every form of wastefulness and extravagance prevailed in town and country, nowhere more than in Philadelphia under the very eyes of Congress—luxury of dress, luxury of equipage, luxury of the table." The reason was that the money was depreciating all the time; he who held it longest was taxed the most; therefore it paid to exchange it for goods quickly. Moreover, if a man owed $1,000 in gold value and was enabled to pay it with $100, he had $900 disposable for other purposes.

—N. Y. Evening Post.

THE QUESTION BOX

TYPES OF U. S. QUARTER AND HALF-DOLLARS.

A Penna. subscriber writes: "Will you kindly advise me the years coinage of the seven types of the quarter, and the eight types of the half-dollar referred to in your price list No. 15, began, and the year discontinued."

Quarter Dollars.

Type.	Began.	Ended.
1st.	1796	Only year
2nd.	1804	1807
3rd.	1815	1828
4th.	1831	1838
5th.	1838	1891
6th.	1892	1916
7th.	1916	....
8th.	1893	Isabella World's Fair. Only year.

This includes the Special, as well as the regular coinage.

Half Dollars.

Type.	Began.	Ended.
1st.	1794	1795
2nd.	1796	1797
3rd.	1801	1807
4th.	1807	1836
5th.	1836	1839
6th.	1838	1891
7th.	1892	1915
8th.	1916	....
9th.	1892	'1893 Columbus World's Fair.
10th.	1915	Only year Panama-Pacific Exposition.

1802 HALF-DIME. 1796 HALF-CENT.

From California comes this question: "Which is the rarest coin, the 1802 half-cent?"

According to U. S. Mint reports, there were 12,010 pieces of the 1802 half-dime coined, and of the 1796 half-cent, 155,480 pieces. This, however, is not correct as to the 1796 half-cent, as the 1795 issue is only given as 25,600 pieces, and they are very common when compared to the 1796.

There is an old saying that "figures cannot lie." This may be true in many cases, but the figures given in the Mint report, as far as they apply to the number issued during the earlier years of the Mint, of the 1796 half-cent, and the 1799 cent, are deceitful—they give a wrong impression. There is no doubt whatever that by far the greater majority of half cents issued during 1796 were actually struck during 1795, and bore that date.

The 1802 half-dime is certainly rarer than the 1796 half-cent.

Late Copies

If your copy of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY fails to reach you on time—between the third and fifth of the month—please be a little patient before writing us of the delay. The magazine is usually mailed out on time, the first of the month, but just now we all know of the delay in all transportation, and it has been our experience that even first-class mail matter is delayed and second and third-class matter are often delayed in transit double former time.

Rochester Numismatic Association

Hotel Rochester, Tuesday, April 2, 1918.

The 143d meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association was called to order by the president, Mr. H. H. Yawger, the following members being present: Messrs. Yawger, W. H. Amberg, Savage, Crandall, Borradaile, Gillette, Plumb, Maunovry, L. G. Amberg, Dr. Young, Loizeau, Koeb, Dr. Tillotson, Woolsey, Horner, Bauer, Dr. Handler, Woodbury, Burling, Hicks.

Publications received: Illustrated booklet on the coins and medals of Luther and The Reformation, from Mr. Moritz Wormser, the author.

Members were glad to welcome our vice-president, Dr. S. Handler, who had been ill for several months.

Exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Gillette: The following medals and coins: Medals—Nach Paris medal supposed to be captured from the Germans while upon the attempted drive to Paris in 1914; two varieties of Fulton-Hudson medal; two varieties of the Grant medal; large medal with battleship Maine on which is struck on metal, "From the Maine"; large Samuel Mendolshon medal. Coins as follows: Silver Denarius of Vespasian with Judea Capta on the reverse; two fine Denarii of Saloninus, also several fine specimens of the Third Bronze of the Byzantine Emperors, Leo V., and Nicepherus.

By Mr. Savage: Ten dollar gold piece, 1795, very fine; gold dollar, 1862, uncirculated; California quarter dollar, proof condition, 1876; silver dollar, 1795, with head of 1794.

Bq Mr. Maunovry: Following cents in fine condition: 1793 Chain Crosby, 3 S; 1793 Chain Crosby, 1 C; 1793, lettered edge, 11 J; 1793 Chain Ameri. 1794, Hays Nos. 2, 3, 7, 11, 15, 17, 26, 33, 39, 43, 54, 56.

Meeting adjourned to April 16th, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

Springfield Coin Club

The 64th meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held in the rooms of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, April 10th, 1918, with President Frazier in the chair. Members present (6): Messrs. Browne, Morse, G. M. Morris, Fuller, Frazier and A. W. Morris. The small attendance was occasioned by a number of the members being on the Liberty Bond drives.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved with a slight correction. Julien A. Whipple of 48 Pearl Street was then regularly elected a member. A very interesting exhibit was then made by our fellow member, Mr. Luman S. Browne of Northampton. Mr. Browne being the old-

est collector in our club and his exhibition having been made over a period of years and the way a real collector should collect, was of particular interest to the younger generation of collectors. His exhibit consisted mostly of cents and their varieties and various tokens and Colonial coins, and Mr. Browne made some very interesting remarks regarding the collection along the lines of reminiscencing. A rising vote of thanks was given Mr. Browne after the exhibition was over.

The secretary extended an invitation to meet at his house on May 8th.

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned.

A. W. MORRIS, Secretary.

New York Numismatic Club

The regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held at the Park Avenue Hotel Friday evening, March 8, 1918, with the president, Dr. D. W. Valentine, presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Boyd, Belden, Elder, Frey, Heaton, Kohler, Reilly, Smith, Proskey, Swanson, Valentine, Wood, Wormser, Wyman.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were approved as read.

All American members except two had paid their dues for 1918.

The Secretary received a copy of Mehl's Monthly and Mr. Heaton's Nutshell. The Secretary was asked to drop those members who still owed their dues.

Executive Committee: The topic announced for the next meeting was The Coins, Medals and Paper Money of Ireland.

The Executive Committee also ruled that excepting regular speakers for the meetings, no member would be allowed to speak longer than five minutes.

Membership Committee: Applications have been received from Sidney P. Noe and Arthur C. Wyman, of this city. Seconded by Howland Wood.

Publication Committee: Will make a report at the annual meeting.

Medallic Art Committee: No report.

Welcoming of guests. Mr. Wyman was welcomed and asked for a few remarks.

The subject of the evening, "The Coins of Denmark," was next in order.

Mr. Proskey exhibited 183 pieces in silver, copper and gold being only a part of his private collection, and not including the Danish Colonies of West or East Indies. He made remarks, and spoke of the importance and variety of this series, and regretted the slight demand for Danish coins among collectors. He mentioned small skillings for Iceland, and referred to other important pieces, referring also the copper counterfeits of the 2 and 8 skilling coins of Christian VII. Two interesting pieces were the thick copper coins issued during the Civil War in the 13th and 14th centuries, bearing an anchor and a cross with two dots.

Mr. Wormser mentioned the Thaler of 1623 for Gluckstadt, of which he exhibited two varieties: the Christian V. medal on his coronation, showing the elephant; Andreas Peter, Count of Bernstorff, 1796, a crown sized medal commemorating his services; a medal dated 1804 on the erection of a monument to patriots who fell in 1801; and the gulden of 1717, issued in Saxony, in memory of Anna Sophia, Princess of Denmark; also a ducat on a similar event.

Mr. Frey showed some rare and valuable gold coins, including those of extra size, including the triple ducat of 1612 of Christian IV., with a large elephant on reverse; double ducat of 1673, of Christian V., with elephant; double ducat of 1704, of Frederick IV., with a view of Christiansborg, in Guinea, and several choice ducat coins; also Mr. Frey exhibited for Mr. Beller a splendid collection of large silver coins dating from Frederick III., including several multiple crowns.

Mr. Julius Guttag exhibited a Norwegian paper bill for one Krone, dated 1917.

Mr. Kohler made remarks and exhibited late coins of Denmark of Christian IX., Frederick VIII., and Christian X.; also commemorative, anniversary and mortuary coins of 2 kroner size and several coins of Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark.

Dr. Valentine spoke on the Danish coinages and mentioned the coins of Cnut ,who rule England, Ireland and Denmark at the same time. He mentioned the early Danish seamen who were known as pirates, and said that the Hanseatic League was founded on account of the depredations of these pirates of the middle ages. He spoke of the wild men, shown on Danish coins. Mr. Frey here exhibited a coin with only one wild man on.

Dr. Valentine made an exhibit of a group of coins also.

Mr. Riley moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Beller for his interesting exhibit of 24 Danish silver crowns and double crowns. This vote was so ordered.

The meeting thereupon adjourned.

THOMAS L. ELDER,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Chicago Numismatic Society

The April meeting of Branch One, A. N. A., was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Friday evening, April 12. The following were present: Messrs. Kelly, Jonas, Josephson, Lawless, Leon, Boyer, Wilson, and Davis. Dr. Hennan, Mr. DeCou, and Miss Naerup were present as visitors.

The exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Kelly: Several types of shell money, including some wampum and some cowries, and some Hat money from the Straits Settlements.

By Mr. Davis: Pennies of William the Conqueror and Edward II., and a Shilling of the Commonwealth.

By Mr. Josephson: A large Swiss religious medal of the seventeenth century, and two sets of essays in copper of Napoleon II.

By Mr. Lawless: Some fine Massachusetts cents of 1787 and '88, an uncirculated Virginia half-cent, a number of very fine early copper cents, and an 1859 oak-leaf pattern cent.

By Mr. Brown: A set of pattern pieces of Cuba:; 1870 10c, 20c, ½ peso and 1 peso; a set from Italy, 1907, consisting of 5, 10 and 20 centime pieces, and a set from Hawaii, 1883, consisting of ⅛, ¼, ½ and 1 dollar pieces.

By Mr. Leon: A complete set of English patterns in silver and gold of Victoria, a Declaration 10 shilling piece of Charles I., dated 1642, a broad medallic double thaler, 1630, commemorating the Augsbury Confession, three-crown piece, Sicily, 1793, Civil War medal struck in honor of the colored troops, a Confederate medal, "The Wealth of the South," and four sets of paper currency used in the German prison camps at Gardelegen, Konigsbruck, and Golzern.

By Mr. Boyer: 40 American colonial coins, including fine examples of Pine Tree Shilling, Willow Tree Two Pence, Annapolis Shilling, Rosa Americana Penny, Washington Cent with large Heraldic eagle, Kentucky cent, Pitt Token, and cents of Vermont, New Jessey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

By Mr. Wilson: Crown of Gustavus Adolphus.

By Mr. De Cou: Set of six Turkish coins, and copper cents from Brazil and Argentine Republic.

By Mr. Jonas: Siege pieces from Landau, Breda, Ulm, and Lubeck.

The meeting adjourned till the second week in May.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

Perforated U. S. Coins

Perforated coins were never in favor in the United States, though various efforts were made to popularize them. The first United States coin with a perforated center was the gold dollar issued in 1849, which had a square hole in the middle of the planchet. It was the forerunner of the gold dollar issued by the United States mint in 1849. The coin was engraved, not struck from dies. The next United States coin with a perforated center was issued from the Philadelphia mint in 1850 and was of the denomination of one cent. It was about the size of the bronze cent now in use. At that time the large, old-fashioned copper cent was in general circulation and the perforated coin received the name of "ring cent." The designer reasoned that by means of the perforation the cent could be distinguished by touch from the dime. Another perforated cent issued the same year showed two rings in the field, with the words "Cent One-tenth Silver." The reverse showed an olive wreath around the perforation, and the words "United States of America." The mint authorities undertook to design a coin that would answer all requirements, and the pieces were struck with both pierced and perfect centers in silver, copper, nickel and composition metal, six varieties in all, without counting the various metals, but none of the designs was favored by the government authorities and consequently they were never put in general circulation.

Printing Dollar Bills

The engraving of currency is one of the most delicate and interesting mechanical operations in the world. The printing of dollar bills is done by hand, four at a time; but such an actual printing process is only a small fraction of the art and labor involved in "making money." The plate used is the product of months of careful engraving by different workmen. No one engraver cuts an entire plate, nor is the public permitted to see these men at work.

The actual printing is not done from the plate itself, when that is finished, but from duplicates made by a mechanical process. If you examine a government bill carefully you will notice a net work of fine lines upon its surface. These lines were cut into the original plate by a geometric machine, which can be set into a multitude of different combinations, like the lock of a safe. Each new combination produces an arrangement of the lines, slightly but unmistakably different from any other arrangement, and thus affords the expert a useful test in determining the genuineness of a bill.

The paper which goes into paper money is another highly specialized product, the result of a careful and intricate process of expert manufacture. It is made of the best flax, tough and long-wearing, with little threads of colored silk rolled into the body of its texture after a certain definite system. The duplication of this paper is as great an obstacle in the way of counterfeiters as is the cutting of false plates itself.

The bureau of engraving and printing turns out a million dollars in paper money every day of the year. To keep track of this product, one of the most efficient systems of accounting on earth has been installed. As it goes from one operation to the next, from first to last each bill is counted fifty times. In fifteen years only one bill has gone astray.

The need of a careful process of manufacture such as our government maintains so rigidly is shown by the confusion that disturbs all business in a country like Mexico where a hastily issued currency is easily and successfully counterfeited.

Stone Money

Discussing unusual descriptions of currency, the annual bullion letter of Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. has the following interesting note:

"The Caroline Islands, which passed from Spanish to German sovereignty after the Spanish-American War by purchase, and now into the possession of Great Britain by capture, comprise an island called Uap, where stone money, called 'fei,' is used as the medium of exchange. It consists of large, solid, thick stone wheels, ranging in diameter from 1 foot to 12 feet, having a central hole through which a pole can be inserted, so as to convert the inert mass into 'currency.' The value represented by the stone increases naturally with its size, and the limestone of which the 'fei' is composed must be of fine white grain to be considered good delivery. Yet there seems to be no real necessity for delivery at all, for it is quite customary to earmark the money, as it were, and leave it in its old position outside the first owner's hut, an excellent provision, considering the bulkiness of the material. The owner for the time being possessed, meanwhile, power to wield the influence which attached to this visible display of wealth."

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States, 50 cents a year; Canada and Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, JUNE-JULY, 1918 No. 6-7

With The Editor

The Coins of Sweden

A Western New York correspondent writes: "I have been greatly interested in your "With the Editor" notes for some time but am somewhat surprised that you have never recognized in them the beauty of the coins of Sweden. You have mentioned several times the British series of James I, and Charles I, also the coins issued by Mary, Queen of Scots, and her son the seventh James. These series contain many fine coins, I admit, but they cannot "hold a candle" to the Swedish gold and silver coins of Gustavus II, Adolphus, Christina and Charles. Take for instance, the 1632 thaler of Gustavus—where will you find a more beautiful coin?

When in Buffalo some time ago, I saw a collection of Swedish coins that made my mouth water, and my eyes stick out in surprise, such was their beauty. They beat anything made during the same period, and why not. Sweden at that time led the world in art, as she did in war, until Peter the Great proved too much for her."

The Swedish series is certainly a magnificient one, especially the coins issued during the period our correspondent mentions. It is not for us to say which was the finest series—Britain or Sweden. The gold three pound piece, and the silver twenty, and ten shillings of Charles I, are very fine coins. Charles, besides being king of England, was also ruler of the British colonies in America, and the State of Maryland was named after his Queen. These facts bring his coins into close connection with our country's history.

The American collector of today will greatly add to the value of his collection if it includes in it specimens of both British and Swedish coins of this period.

Despised Things (coins) Worth More Than is Supposed

The famous twelfth-century French poet, Chretian de Troyes, who is known chiefly to students of Arthurian romance, wrote: "The rustic's proverb says that many a thing is dispised that is worth much more than is supposed." This is true of many things but of none more so than of many so-called common coins. Many European coins that collectors generally despise as common,

will be found to be practically unobtainable after the war. The copper and nickel coins of Continental Europe are already scarce, and are becoming more so every day the war continues. Especially is this true of those issued by the Central powers, and some of the neutral states. Those interested in these series should bear this fact in mind. Those not interested—well, a nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.

The Jackson Tokens

A correspondent writes: "I have been looking forward to the proposed new list of these tokens that you mentioned some months ago. Can you give me any information when it will be published. I do hope you will succeed in breaking the shell and induce some one to publish a list that will be within the reach of everybody and furnish a ready finding list. Many of these tokens are so closely connected with the political history of those times, the effect of which is still felt, that the study of them helps us to understand the questions of to-day."

It was a little bird that told us of the proposed new list, but it is not always safe to believe every song little birds sing. The war has many things to answer for, and this is probably one of them. Meanwhile we would advise all young collectors to go on collecting this series. When the new list is published, the tokens will certainly not decrease in value.

The Next American Numismatic Association Convention Set for October 5-9, 1918

Just why it is necessary to hold the A. N. A. Convention in October—after vacation season—is quite a puzzle to us. For some reason which we have never been able to fathom there has always been a tendency by a few members to hold the A. N. A. Convention in the early Fall rather than in the Summer, when practically all other conventions are held and which would always assure a far more successful and interested attendance. The Philatelic Association, with a membership of more than double that of the A. N. A., has always found it pleasant and profitable to hold its Convention in May or June, the most advantageous time when the majority of members can include the Convention in their annual vacation.

The only apparent reason for the late date of the next A. N. A. Convention is the argument advanced by a few—very few—that the generally recognized convention season is too hot. Is it possible that Numismatists are easier overheated than Philatelists, Rotarians, Ad Club members and numerous other members of various societies whose conventions are enjoyably held during the Summer?

We realize that there are men who can arrange to attend the Convention at any time it may be held, but it is our understanding that a general representation is desired at these Conventions and we believe that the time of the Convention should be arranged for the convenience of the majority and not for the convenience of a few.

Holidays are Coming

The summer is with us now, and holidays are ahead. But as far as collecting goes, the collector should know no holidays. "Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty." It certainly is the price of a choice collection. Some men say, "I cannot bother about coins in the summer." Such men are not real collectors. When collecting ceases to be a pleasure and becomes a bother, it is time to give up. If your collection is any pleasure to you, keep up your interest in it. If your holidays take you into Texas, and you are any where near Fort Worth—look us up.

Double Number During Summer

Whether it is force of habit or a necessity to do less work during the Summer, we are unable to say, but we do know that by taking matters a little easier during the Summer months or rather diverting a portion of our time to probably less important but equally profitable and enjoyable, from a health point of view, that of attempting to garner a certain species of the finny tribe or in endeavoring to improve one's brassie drives, we always return in the Fall better fit in every way to serve our clients. We will therefore continue our former method of combining the June and July and the August and September issues of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY into double numbers.

However, this means that we are and will continue to be on the job the better portion of **every day** during the Summer, serving numismatically through our auction and approval department the large number of clients whom we are pleased to have on our books.

So please remember that whatever pleasures we may derive from golfing or fishing, it does not exceed the pleasures of hearing from you, and better still of serving you in any numismatic capacity.

The First Sale of the Sears Stock

During a numismatic auction experience extending over a period of upward of twelve years, we do not recollect of ever having noticed such an active advanced interest in an announced Sale as followed our announcement of our Sale of the numismatic stock of Mr. Elmer S. Sears. The requests for catalogs have been more numerous than from any other announcement. This speaks well for the continued and increasing interest in numismatics.

The first sale of this large stock will be held probably in the latter part of June and consists of mainly the United States series.

With the present delay in transportation facilities, the heavier portion of the stock, such as the books, cabinets, cheaper coins, etc., which were forwarded by freight, were a little slow in reaching us in time for a portion of them to be included in the first sale, but the entire stock will be cataloged and offered as soon as possible and everything will be sold absolutely without reserve, affording an unusually advantageous opportunity for all classes of collectors to add materially to their collection.

Catalogs will be distributed to all on our mailing list and to those who write for them by addressing B. Max Mehl, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas.

Dollar Silver is Here

Under date of April 26, 1918, a New York brokers' letter says:

"Dollar silver is here. President Wilson yesterday put his signature to the Pittman bill, authorizing the remelting of 350 million silver dollars now on deposit in the Treasury, and the melting of these dollars into bars, for export to Oriental countries is expected to begin at once.

"These shipments will be at the rate of dollar exchange in the East. A study of the terms of the Pittman bill show that it provides for melting of these 350 million silver dollars, and also under its terms the U. S. Government agrees to take **the entire output of silver** of this country and pay one dollar an ounce for it, which reveals the fact that this price is to be maintained over a period of years."

The melting of 350 million silver dollars will provide about 270 million ounces of silver. The entire output of silver in the U. S. amounts at present to about 74 million ounces a year, and that of the Cobalt section of Canada about 20 million ounces additional, so this melting represents nearly three years total production of both countries—a large amount.

The bill provides also that the above amount melted and taken out, is to be replaced in the future from the surplus above the world's wants from year to year, which means that it may take at least fifteen years to replace the amount melted, and one dollar an ounce will be the price maintained during that time.

In our monthly for April, 1917, in the Question Box, we explained the Bland, Allison, and the Sherman Acts. A word of explanation for the benefit of our younger readers may be in order here. The 350 million silver dollars when melted, and the alloy extracted will only produce 270 million ounces of pure silver. This is the reason:

The U. S. standard silver dollar authorized to be coined by the Act of April 2, 1792. Its weight was fixed at 416 grains, standard silver; fineness 892.4; equivalent to 371¼ grains of fine silver, with 44¾ grains alloy of pure copper. Pure silver is too soft for coinage purposes.

The weight was changed by Act of January 18, 1837, to 412½ grains, and the fineness to 900. This means that amount in 1000 parts. There are 480 grains in one ounce troy weight for silver.

350,000,000 silver dollars X 371¼ grains pure silver, gives total weight of bullion silver in grains, divided by 480 grains, 270,703,125 ounces of silver—if none of the dollars are worn, or short weight. So 270 million ounces is not far from being about right, after reduction to bullion.

In Great Britain, 1-12 is the legal proportion of alloy with silver and gold. In the U. S., France, Belgium and other countries one-tenth alloy is legal.

British bronze coinage is composed of copper 95, tin 4, and zinc 1 part. Our small bronze cents weigh 48 grains—copper 95, tin and zinc 5.

It is interesting to remember that the English king, Henry III, decided that an ounce should be the weight of 640 dried grains of wheat from the middle of the ear. From the reign of William the Conqueror to Henry VIII, the English pound was the weight of 7,680 grains of wheat. Queen Elizabeth—"Good Queen Bess" her subjects called her,—decreed that a pound should be 7,000 grains of wheat taken from the middle of the ear. The piece of platinum kept at the office of the Exchequer in an atmosphere of 62 Fahrenheit, decides for all Great Britain.

Bimentallism---Is It Before Us

A Colorado senator has introduced a resolution in the Senate to provide for a commission to negotiate an international agreement as to the coinage of silver throughout the world.

It is calculated that the present war has consumed money and credit to the enormous amount of $145,000,000,000.

The gold of the world is not enough to bear the strain—silver, it is claimed, must come to the rescue.

Briefly—Bimetallism is a monetary system in which the standard money is composed of gold and silver coined in a fixed ratio of exchange established by law, and both metals are legal tender in unlimited amounts.

England was one of the first countries to reach the conclusion that gold and silver cannot be kept in current circulation at any fixed ratio. In 1816 she formally adopted the single gold standard. Germany adopted the gold standard in 1871. In 1865 France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy united to form the Latin Union, the main object of which was the adoption of a uniform decimal coinage system based on the French franc. The Union adopted the double standard with free coinage of both metals at a ratio of 15½ to 1. In 1873 France, fearing the loss of her supply of gold in consequence of the falling value of silver, stopped the free coinage of silver, and in the next year the Union limited the amount of five-franc pieces to be coined. Finally, in 1878, the coinage of these silver pieces was discontinued and it has never been resumed. Thus, bimetalism came to an end. In practically every important nation in the world gold is now the standard of value.

The passage of the Pittman bill practically fixes the price of silver for the next fifteen years at on dollar per ounce. Silver has for this period at least a fixed standard value. This fact alone is a step, and an important one, to bimetallism.

As a magazine of last month says: "Bimetallism, much as the white race dislikes it, may prove the solution of the financial and trade impasse."

Ancient Monetary System in Sweden

By J. de LAGERBERG.

To give a short history of the Monetary System in Sweeden during the heathen times and during the Catholic period, it will be necessary to compare the many problems on this subject found in the Sages and Laws of the Northern Countries and Ireland. At the same time it will be worth while to consult everything that foreign authors mention in reference to the same, from the Greeko-Roman period until the latter part of the fourteenth century, because the Ancient Monetary System of Sweden was connected with most of those in use by other countries at the same period.

In contrast with the many writers upon the subject of Ancient Coins of the Saxon and Norman periods there are scarcely any treating of these dark ages in Scandinavia. The old coins available for study and comparison are scattered and few in number; the devided opinion concerning them having become part of the difficulty, making the whole subject even more perplexing and hard to get any light upon. The Saxon and Norman Money are almost the same, as they have the same weight and finess of the metal and same rudeness and want of skill in the execution. These coins differ only, as coins of the same age and country, in the different heads and legends of the princes and persons by whom they were struck.

The Northern Kings brought their Mint-Masters from England (there is, however, a mixed opinion on this matter). A great quantity of foreign coins were accepted as cash in Sweden at the time. Contract of various kinds, etc., etc., and payments were by preference stipulated to be settled in these coins because of their value being less subject to change than the domestic.

During the Medieval age the amount of money in circulation was far from as large as during the Roman period. It is assumed that from the commencement of the X'Tian Chronology until the end of the Fifth century the Circulating Medium diminished from nine millions to two, and from thence until the end of the Ninth Century still further, to less than one. The reason is that most of the cash went to the Orient. Partly on account of its commerce, as our Westernland had little merchandise, but only the precious metal to exchange for products from the East and also on account of the movement of the large families from Rome to Constantinople after that city became the capital of the Roman Empire. Perhaps the scarcity of coins during the Medieval age may be attributed largely to the lessened necessity of means of exchange.

With the smaller demand for merchandise, it eventually disappeared from circulation. What enormous sums were spoiled during the Barbarian invasion of the Roman realm and the Civil wars? All industries and commerce suffered

severely thereby. What a tremendous reduction in the value of products for the exchange of which money was a necessity!

During the Middle Ages the King's assets consisted principally in land-grants. When the Feudary were called in, to public services, they equipped themselves at their own expense. The regular tributes were paid with natural products. The cities had no chance to expand in any industrial activity. The necessities of the multitude were confined to the care of lifes maintenance and exigencies. At first it might appear as if these conditions might have produced a tendency to export the precious metals, their consequent disappearance from circulation and their depreciation in value, for when the demand on any raw material is lessened, its value is diminished. This, however, was counterbalanced by other forces. First on account of the prevailing uncertainty, money saved had to be carefully hidden from the maurading depredations of neighbors; which explains the reason why capital was not invested in industrial enterprises. The individual was forced to exchange his few savings into ready cash, and this melted down, was hidden at the bottom of his "Strong Box." It became a necessity, as lending money on interest was considered a sin in those days and condemned by the Clergy. Finally a great deal of gold and silver was put into vessels and ornaments for Ecclesiastical ceremonies, as well as luxuries for the upper classes. When a commodity is kept off the market, it does not influence prices. Besides the sluggishness in trade produces the same effect as a scarcity of coins; the lack of all means to improve credit increases the value of specie. The precious metals were only sought after to accumulate treasures, not to be used to stimulate the barter of commodities. The inconvenience of exchange, which happily in a later period was remedied, was another factor. These are some of the reasons explaining the scarcity of money and the many difficulties rising in connection with its use.

Time will not permit me to go deeper into the Swedish monetary system of this early age.

As soon as the cities were freed from the restraints of Feudalism, (or in the commencement of the 15th century), the precious metals began to return to circulation; the reinvestment of hoarded treasure together with the influx of bullion from the New World, acting as a powerful stimulant on the arteries of a long dormant commerce.

Let us now pass from the consideration affecting the use of money to the classification of types of coinage.

The most ancient coins found in Sweden were of foreign origin. Roman silver and some gold dating from the latter part of the First and from the Second Century A. D. has been unearthed, generally in bulk, and much worn. Roman Byzantine gold from the Fifth Century has also been found, but generally provided with a loop to be worn as an ornament, and unlike the earlier

finds these are rarely recovered in quantities. Arabic and Cufic silver appears from the Ninth and Tenth Century, Anglo-Saxon and German silver from the middle of the Tenth to the Eleventh, mixed with Bohemian, Hungarian and Danish, but very seldom with Byzantine or Cufic of the same period. The oldest Swedish coins, found to date are thought by antiquaries to be struck at Sigtuna and by others minted in England and brought over. These are from the time of Olof Skotkonung. The oldest Danish and Norwegian coins originate from nearly the same period or King Sven Tweskagg and Olof Tryggvason, and as all these Scandinavian coins are of the same English type and all bear the same mint-masters name (Godvine) they must have had a common origin. In these days there were close relations with England. Between 991-1017 the English paid a tribute to Denmark of not less than 271,500 Peen (Marker) Silver.

Later on at the commencement of Albrecht of Mecklenburg's reign 1363 the coins struck in Sweden were in such poor condition, that they were refused as a medium for the payments of commodities.

During the reign of Karl Knutson the first mint laws were published 1449. From these we find that twenty-four Ortug were equal to our mark, at the weight of about an ounce in silver. At this time the weight of the mark in Sweden was the same as in the city of Cologne, Germany. Previous to this no fixed weight nor fineness for any Swedish coin is known, as they were not subject to any exact weighing or analysis. After Kalmar Union 1397 a mint commission was established between Queen Philippa and the Cities of Lubeck, Hamburg, Luneburg and Wismar 1424 and legal rate of exchange was established on all foreign coins.

J. de L.

A Great Bank Note Rarity

It is not often that the Bureau of Printing and Engraving is guilty of a serious error, and when one occurs it is seldom that it escapes into circulation. But we have recently come into possession of a Note which we regard as quite interesting.

It is a note issued for one of the National Banks in a Southern city, the face of the Note being for $20.00 of the series of 1882 while the back is for $10.00 with the portrait of Fessenden. The only way that such an error may happen is that, since the fronts and backs are printed separately and then pasted together, that in some unaccountable manner the sheet of $10.00 backs was "mated" with a sheet of $20.00 faces.

The only other similar error that we know of is a $100.00 note with a $50.00 back which was discovered in Chicago some ten years ago.

Plaque to Commemorate British Soldiers and Sailors Who Have Fallen in the War

"He Died for Freedom and Honor."

To commemorate individually all those who have fallen in the war the British Government has decided to present a bronze plaque to the next-of-kin of each member of the fighting forces who has been killed, accompanied by a scroll with inscription.

The plaque or medal is of circular form, 5-in. in diameter, and bears an emblematic design, with the inscription, "He died for Freedom and Honor;" it will be cast in gunmetal, and each copy will have inserted in the field, (by an ingenious method of casting), a raised tablet inclosing the name of the person commemorated. The design was put out to open competition, and more than 800 models were submitted, the prize of $1,200 being awarded to E. Carter Preston of Liverpool, England.

The inscription is surmounted by a special device, including the Royal Arms in color, with the initials of King George. In view of the large number of plaques which will have to be supplied, and of the probable scarcity both of paper and metal, it is at present uncertain when they will be available for distribution.—(N. Y. Times).

New Coins for Italy

There has been authorized by official decree the issuing of a new coin (an alloy of nickel and copper) valued at 20 centesimi (i. e. 4 cents) to the extent of 16,000,000 lire.

Russian Stamp Currency

After considerable efforts extending over a period of nearly two years, we have finally succeeded in securing a small supply of the Russian "Necessity Money",—the "Stamp Currency"—which we believe will prove about the most interesting monetary issues of the World War.

These "Paper Coins" are a little larger than our postage stamps. They are printed on heavy paper or thin card board, and are perforated but not adhesive. The 10 Kopeks is printed in blue and has the portrait of Czar Nicholas II. The 15 Kopecks is printed in light brown, and has the portrait of Nicholas II. The 20 Kopecks is printed in light green, and has the portrait of Alexander I. The reverse side has an inscription to the effect that "It has the right to circulation equally with the current silver coin." The word over the portraits is equivalent to our "Post" or "Postoffice." In a recent issue of the New York Herald, the following appeared regarding this stamp currency:

"Because of the practical disappearance from circulation of small silver coins of the denomination of ten, fifteen and twenty kopeks, stamps similar to the ordinary postage variety, are being used in their place by the people of Russia. The small silver coins which were plentiful a year ago now are practically gone from circulation. What has become of them is a question puzzling the authorities, but it is probable that they have been hoarded by the poorer classes, who fear the result of the war and who feel that they will be better provided for if they cling to the silver money. Under the Russian monetary standard 100 Kopeks are equal to a Rouble, which in normal times is valued in exchange at fifty-one cents American money. Now, however, a Rouble is valued at twenty-nine cents American money. Ordinarily, however, the ten-kopeks piece corresponds to the American five-cent piece. So strict are the Russians about their money now that the war is on that the authorities will allow no person to take from the country more than 100 Roubles which under the present rate of exchange approximates $150."

The various denominations and the prices at which they may be procured is listed on the covers of this issue of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY.

The Numismatic History of Charles II.

Summary of a Paper Read Before the British Numismatic Society

By LIEUT.-COLONEY H. W. MORRIESON, R. A., F. S. A.

The numismatic history of Charles II, will always be celebrated for two events; the supersession of the hammer by the mill and screw in the coining of money, and the introduction of a just and proper copper coinage. The subject was treated under three heads: (1) the hammered coins; (2) the milled coinage; (3) the copper coinage.

Lieut.-Colonel Morrieson divided the hammered coins of 1660 to 1662 into six issues:—(1) without mint mark, numerals expressing value, or inner circle; (2) with the mint-mark crown, which is found on all the remaining issues, but in other respects resembling the first; (3) as the second, with numerals showing the value of the coin; this issue took place after November, 1651, as in that month an order was published directing that the coins should bear marks of value; (4) with both numerals and inner circle; (5) and (6) small pieces of Maundy money. The gold coins extant are of the second and third issues, but silver coins exist of all. Innovations in this coinage were the substitution of a wreath for a crown on the gold coins, and the appearance of a crowned bust instead of an equestrian portrait, on the half-crown. The engraver of the dies was the celebrated Simon, and the whole series brings the hammered coinage to a magnificent close.

The milled coins marked the change from Renaissance to classical style. The guinea now made its first appearance, and was so called from the fact that the gold from which many of them were struck, was brought from the Guinea coast. The lecturer dealt at considerable length with the silver coins. Many dies were used, generally differing from one another in the number of strings in the Irish harp, and, contrary to what might have been expected, the size of the flans varied considerably, especially in the shillings.

The copper coinage was commenced in 1672 by the issue of half-pence and farthings, which were made of pure Swedish copper and were coined at the rate of 175 grains to the halfpenny and 87½ grains to the farthing—a great change from previous reigns, when the weight of the farthing varied from 4 to 14.5 grains. In 1684, in order to make up for a falling off of income, due to the low price of tin, farthings were struck in that metal with a plug of copper in the centre. With regard to the patterns, particular attention was paid to those bearing the legend QUATUOR BARIA VINDICO, the reverse of which bore a figure of Britannia that has remained unchanged, in its principal features, to this day, and for which the Duchess of Richmond posed as model. It is probable that this pattern would have been adopted had not Louis XIV, it is said, objected to the legend and used his influence to obtain its suppression. However that may be, the coins issued for currency, in 1672, substituted the word BRITANNIA for the proud claim of dominion of the seas.

U. S. May Melt $250,000,000 to Bolster market

Washington.—Melting into bullion of not more than 250,000,000 silver dollars now in the treasury for sales export to pay trade balances and repurchase of silver at $1 an ounce is proposed in an administration bill introduced to-day by Senator Pittman as an emergency war measure. Silver certificates would be withdrawn from circulation as the dollars are taken from the treasury and Federal reserve bank notes of new $1 and $2 denominations substituted.

If enacted, the measure virtually would fix a standard price for silver at $1 an ounce, several cents above the present market, and stabilize the world market, since the United States produces almost half of the total. The bill also is intended to stimulate silver production and to use the treasury's reserve stock of that metal instead of gold to settle the country's commercial trade balances in the Orient and elsewhere.

In anticipation of the action by congress, Raymond T. Baker, director of the mint, has formulated an agreement with silver producers and dealers to sell to the government at the $1 rate. The probable result would be for the government to absorb the country's entire output, about 74,000,000 ounces last year. Officials have stated they would make arrangements to supply quantities of silver to jewelers and manufacturers requiring it.

The bill would permit the secretary of the treasury to fix the selling price of the government's silver, but it is assumed this would be not less than $1. India, China and Japan need silver most for coinage and quantities also might be exported to South American countries and European neutrals whose trade balances are against the United States. India's requirements would be negotiated through Great Britain.

The treasury now holds 491,000,000 silver dollars containing about 376,000,000 ounces of silver.

No silver dollars have been coined since 1904. For half dollars, quarters and dimes, the government this year needs about 21,000,000 ounces of silver.

When Pioneers Made Change

Silver Dollars Were Quartered and "Sharp Shins" Were the Result.

We of to-day, with half dollars, quarter dollars, dimes, nickels and pennies, often find it difficult to "make change," complains Martha G. Purcell, in "Stories of Old Kentucky." Still more difficult was it for the early settlers to do so.

As the Indians used wampum, so the pioneers of Kentucky used the skins of wild animals as their first currency. While immigrants continued to come

to this region Spanish silver dollars came gradually into circulation. Still there was no small change.

As "necessity is the mother of invention," our forefathers actually made change by cutting the dollar into four equal parts, each worth 25 cents. These were again divided, each part worth 12½ cents, called bits. People sometimes became careless in the work of making change, and often cut the dollar into five "quarters" or into 10 "eights." On account of the wedge shape of these pieces of cut money, they were called "sharp shins."

If change was needed for a smaller sum than 12½ cents, merchants gave pins, needles, writing paper and such things.

This cut silver gradually found its way back to the mint for recoinage, usually to the loss of the last owner. As late at 1806 a business house in Philadelphia received over 100 pounds of cut silver, brought on by a Kentucky merchant, which was sent on a dray to the United States mint for recoinage.

Rochester Numismatic Association

Tuesday, May 7th, 1918.—One hundred and forty-fifth meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association called to order by President H. H. Yawger.

Members present:—Messrs Yawger, W. H. Amberg, Woodbury, Plumb, L. G. Amberg, Maunovry, Savage, Bauer, Gillette, Burling, Crandall, Loizeau, Dr. French, Wolf, Koeb.

An auction sale of medals, U. S. Gold Coins, Hard Time Tokens and Foreign Silver Coins, Dollar size, all in mint condition was held during the evening. Mr. Bauer acting as auctioneer.

A gold plated Rochester Numismatic Association Medal of 1917, having the portrait of our Ex-President Fred E. Merritt, was sold after much spirited bidding to one of the new members.

Exhibits were as follows by Dr. French:—Collection of U. S. Cents from 1793 to 1856 in fine to uncirculated condition, including the following, viz: 1793 Chain Variety, having periods after Liberty and date and "America" on the reverse. Crosby 4 C. Uncirculated. 1794 Hays No. Six, Uncirculated. 1796 Gilbert-Elder No. 30, Fine. 1803 Having 1-100 over 1-1000, extremely fine. 1805 Pointed one, extremely fine.

Meeting adjourned to Tuesday, May 21st, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

New York Numismatic Club

Park Avenue Hotel, New York, May 10th, 1918.

Regular meeting was held at the Park Avenue Hotel on Friday evening, May 10th, 1918, with the President, Dr. D. W. Valentine, presiding. The following were present: Messrs. Butler, Blake, Boyd, Davidson, Elder, Frey, Hesslein, Heaton, Newell, Proskey, Reilly, Smith, Swanson, Valentine, Wood, Wyman, Wormser, Swanson and Zerbe, with one visitor, Mr. Elmer S. Sears.

The minutes of last meeting were approved as read.

The Secretary had received a letter from John A. Kleman, enclosing a remittance for dues, with his resignation to take place at the end of the year. His resignation was accepted.

The Secretary received some copies of Mr. Dunham's keys to Breton's work, and to Low's Hard Times Tokens; also his check for Encased Postage Stamps, and was asked to write and thank Mr. Dunham for the same.

Applications for membership of Messrs. Noe and Wyman were favorably acted on and the Secretary asked to notify them of their election.

Executive Committee: Chairman Boyd announced that the subject of the next meeting would be "The Coins and Medals of Scotland."

The subject of the evening, "The Coins and Medals of Ireland," was next introduced, and introductory remarks were made by President Valentine relating to early Irish history, its earliest religions, kings and rulers, and referring to the origin of the use of gold and silver by King Brian Boru. He mentioned that a Jew, J. Simon, was the best authority on Irish coins, while an Irishman was the best authority on Jewish coins.

Mr. Wormser spoke of the evolution of the mark and compared the so-called "Irish mark" with the Swedish and German mark.

Mr. Proskey showed an interesting series of weights, large and small, the equivalent of any gold coin which came along, and used by traders and exchange brokers back to about 1700. He showed a large number of the necessity coins of James II, and referred to the Fenian medals struck 1866-7. He mentioned the first copper money for Ireland, including the Queen Elizabeth 2 pence and the small pieces of James I and Charles I, the latter showing several mint marks and small distinguishing marks such as crescents and stars.

His exhibit was large, including: medals, 59; money weights, 121; coins, 268; total, 448 pieces.

Mr. Elder exhibited a sheet of three $5.00 notes of the Irish Republic, and $10, $20 and $50 notes of the same issue.

Mr. Wyman read a paper on the McCulla halfpenny, issued in 1739. Davis described this piece in his Tokens of the Nineteenth Century, and it is referred to in Ruding. McCulla was a brazier who proposed to supply coins. The plan was proposed to Dean Swift, who was a political factor in Irish

affairs at that time. Through the plan a percentage was to be allotted to the Duchess of Kent, a favorite of King George I, and to William Wood. McCulla was to redeem all worn coins at the rate of 20 pence a pound. McCulla's share was to be 16%. The coins were put out, but as the regal coinage appeared in 1730, the McCulla halfpenny disappeared entirely. The main point emphasized by Mr. Wyman was that a coin like this, which bore only an inscription and date, while it may be very uninteresting to look at, still when one came to examine into its history he would get much interesting history and pleasure out of it.

Mr. Elmer S. Sears told some funny stories, one of them of such length as to mark him as an elocutionist.

Mr. Frey spoke of Irish coins and their nicknames.

Dr. Valentine spoke at length of the early history of Ireland being shrouded in mysticism and legend. He found the Celts were not the original Irishmen, but that Turanians and Aryans preceded them. The early tribesmen were a severe race, who levied tribute, held slaves and indulged in polygamy. They were fire worshipers, sun worshipers and probably snake worshipers at various times. About the 5th century marked the beginnings of the Christian religion. Then St. Patrick came and with his advent began real Irish history. Brian Boru and King T. O'Connor had mints and struck money. About 1450 a separate coinage was established, and Henry VI struck money for Ireland in 1459. Dr. Valentine mentioned the various coinages and referred to the pewter money of William III and others. He mentioned the Wood coinage and of the uproar raised by Dean Swift and others, and of Wood's surrendering the patent in 1724.

Mr. Zerbe, a visiting member, referred to the new variety of the quarter dollar, the first issue of which appeared in 1916, mentioning as significant the appearance of Liberty with a coat of mail. He referred also to the proposal to issue 100,000 souvenir half dollars commemorative of the Illinois Centennial, an event to be commemorated this year. He spoke also of the proposal to melt up 350,000,000 silver dollars, to supply foreign governments with silver. The proposed act provides that in time these dollars are to be replaced. If this is done it might be we would have a new silver dollar at some future date.

Mr. Blake exhibited two interesting pieces of United States paper money, one a $1.00 note of the first issue of 1862, Note No. 1, and the $5.00 note of 1862, Note No. 1.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

THOS. L. ELDER, Secretary and Treasurer.

Wartime Currency Next

Federal Reserve Notes for $1 and $2 to Appear July 4.

Washington, May 7.—Designed for the nation's first wartime currency, Federal Reserve Bank notes of $1 and $2 denominations to-day were approved by the Treasury, and the new bills will appear in general circulation about July 4.

A symbol of the war period is given to the reverse side of the $2 note in the design of one of the newest battleships. The face of the $2 notes bears

a portrait of Thomas Jefferson. The face of the $1 note carries a portrait of George Washington, and the reverse side has a design of the spread eagle in warlike attitude clutching the American flag.

The bills are intended to replace silver certificates, about $30,000,000 of which have been withdrawn from circulation in the last two weeks, as the silver which secured them was melted into bullion under the new Silver act.

Springfield Coin Club

The 65th meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held May 8th, at the home of the secretary, 54 Buckingham street, with President Frazier in the chair. Members present (8), Messrs. Drowne, Frazier, G. M. Morris, Oliver, Oppenheimer, Pond, Stone and A. W. Morris.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, after which the reports of the various committees were called for. The announcement was made of the receipt of several copies of "Check List of Incased Postage Stamps," "Hard Time Tokens" and "Canadian Coins and Tokens" from Mr. William F. Dunham, and upon motion duly seconded and carried a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Dunham for these copies, which were distributed among the members, after turning a set over to the Librarian. Announcement was made of the receipt of the coinage of the Denver Mint, which Mr. King so kindly sent us. Upon motion, a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. King for his trouble in the matter.

A. W. Morris then exhibited his collection of United States coins, after which the meeting adjourned to meet June 5th.

A. W. MORRIS, Secretary-Treasurer.

Mustn't Send U. S. Money to Foreign Lands Through Mail

Rigid enforcement of the regulation that prevents the sending of coins or currency through the mails to foreign countries is urged by the post office department at Washington in an order received Monday.

It is set out that numerous instances of money being found inclosed in letters and parcel post packages addressed to foreign countries come to the attention of the department recently.

Under the proclamation issued by President Wilson on Sept. 7, 1917, concerning the export or shipment of coin, it is ordered that United States coin or currency, gold coins, whether of United States or foreign mintage, and gold buillion, be not transmitted through the mails to countries outside of the United States and its possessions.

The prohibition does not include foreign currency and foreign silver coins.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States, 50 cents a year; Canada and Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1918 No. 8-9

With The Editor

Abraham Lincoln---Queen Victoria

An Eastern correspondent writes: "In your April issue under the heading 'Three Men—and One Woman,' you give first place to Queen Victoria of Great Britain, as having had more coins and medals struck in her honor than any other person.

This may be so. I have no means of ascertaining the total number of coins denominations struck within the British Empire throughout the world during her long reign of over sixty years. But our own Lincoln must run her a close race, if indeed he has not passed her. Our mint records show the total number of Lincoln cents issued so far, including the first four months of the present year, to be 1,359.654,049—a huge number.

The first Lincoln **cent**—why some people persist in calling this coin a penny is more than I can understand—appeared in 1909. Our laws are such that the design on a coin must remain unchanged for twenty-five years except an Act of Congress should decree a change. The Lincoln cent then will probably continue until 1934. If it does, the number of coins issued having Lincoln's bust will be much greater than those struck during Victoria's reign. Honor to whom honor is due. All honor to Lincoln."

We are ready and willing to honor Lincoln—the great friend of Freedom, in all possible ways. No man has ever done more for the cause than he has. In 1934, it is possible that the Lincoln cents issued will outnumber the coins issued under Victoria. It is possible but not certain. The Queen ruled over a great Empire, and countless millions used her coinage. But it is impossible to decide the question today. Lincoln gave Freedom to these United States. Another great American President—Wilson, with a solid country behind him—will give Freedom to the entire world.

Canada Places an Embargo on Coins

The Canadian Government's action in placing an embargo on collections of coins (cabinets of coins is the exact term) entering the Dominion will cause some inconvenience to collectors there. Until the end of the war, or until the embargo is removed, they will be unable to receive parcels of coins from

this side of the line. Canadian collectors will be thrown on their own resources. Those living in or near the border cities may be able to have their parcels sent to a U. S. address and personally conduct them over the border. Those not so fortunate will have to make exchanges with others—a poor makeshift.

Upon application to the proper authorities, licenses may be issued allowing the importation into the Dominion of articles under the embargo, if the admission is considered for the national good. It is hardly probable that collections (or parts of) will be so considered.

As we write this, a Canadian collector informs us that he has received a letter from the Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa, stating that the admission of coins for collections into Canada is prohibited by the embargo, except under license by the War Board.

Philadelphia Convention Too Late in Year

A New York State correspondent writes: "I wish you would try to find out through the Monthly, just why the Convention is to be held so late this year. I quite agree with your remarks in the last issue on this subject, and think it should be held much earlier in the year. Any time in July or August would be far more convenient than October. All other conventions are held successfully during the summer, but on account of the 'heat' it seems advisable to hold the A. N. A. Convention for the convenience of a few—very few—men at a time when it is most inconvenient for most men to attend."

Our views on the best time for holding the Convention are known. But we cannot fix the date. That is the privilege, or duty, of the Board of Governors. The matter might well be brought to the attention of the members present there, and an earlier day be set for next year.

The Export of Silver Coins Prohibited in England

A recent order of the British Government prohibits the export of all silver current money of that realm. Coins affected are the issues from George III 1820 to the present year. This order is due to the present high value of silver in New York and London. The British Government has followed the example of our own.

The Number of Strings in the Harps on Irish Half-Pennies of Charles II

A collector wrote us recently asking for a list of Irish half-pennies of Charles II in stock. He asked the number of strings in the harps of the different varieties of each year. He had the 1680 with 14, 15 and 17 strings, the 1681 with 12, 13 and 14, the 1682 with 12 and 13, the 1683 with 14—three different varieties—and the 1684 with 14. This date is very rare. In those of James II he had the 1685 with 15, the 1686 with 13, 14 and 15, and the 1688

with 14 strings. Of the William and Mary he had the 1692, 3 with 13, and 1694 with 14 strings.

Dr. Philip Nelson, in "The Coinage of Ireland," mentions the difference in size of the letters in legend on the half-pennies of Charles II but not the number of strings in the harps. If you are interested in this series Mr. Collector, look up your Irish half-pennies and count the number of strings in the harps.

Money Plentitul in Russia at Present

A press dispatch informs the world that money—such as it is—is plentiful at present in Russia. The amount of paper money issued by the Bolshevik Government and now in circulation there aggregates 40,000,000,000 roubles. Lenine's money presses are still turning out paper money at the rate of three billion roubles monthly. Evidently there is no need for Uncle Sam to make a loan to Russia at present.

Austria issues "Bank Notes" Inscribed "Venice 1918"

Austria evidently had no doubt of the ultimate success of her great June drive against Italy—but she counted her chickens before they were hatched. Among the prisoners taken by the Italians were many who were found in possession of pieces of paper resembling bank notes. These bore the heading "VENICE MCMXVIII," with a number below. Reports do not state for what value these were issued, but notes of high denomination would cost no more to print than those of low value. When these "scraps of paper" were confiscated the Austrian prisoners complained bitterly against being robbed of their private property. The notes were meant to be used in captured territory, and large quantities had been printed and distributed among the soldiers with the right to enforce acceptance by the Italian inhabitants.

Special commemorative metal tokens, similar to campaign buttons, were also found on the prisoners. These showed the Austrian eagle pouncing upon the wings of the lion of St. Mark, with the inscription, "Piave 1918." The lion of St. Mark, however, was not caught asleep, he had one eye open.

Spain to Counter-Stamp Foreign Gold Coins

The Finance Minister of Spain has presented a bill in Parliament, the effect of which will be to place that country on a gold basis. It provides that silver shall not be legal tender in amounts of more than fifty pesetas, except for payment to the Government. Until facilities have been provided for minting the required amount of gold, foreign gold coins will have currency in Spain, their values in pesetas being stamped on them.

The standard in Spain is the peseta of one hundred centesimos, nominally equal to twenty of our cents. They have gold coins of the value of 25, 20, 10 and 5 pesetas but the supply falls far short of the demand.

It may be very convenient for the people of Spain to have foreign gold coins circulating in Spain bear their Spanish values, but it will certainly not increase the beauty of the coins so roughly treated. A well-known American

numismatic expert recently objected to the use of the word "counterstamp," claiming that it was un-English, and not to be found in any of the standard dictionaries. We suppose that even dictionaries are revised and brought up to date at times. The word may be un-English, but it may nevertheless be good American, and to our mind it expresses a meaning all its own. A "countermark" need not necessarily be stamped. The use of the term—counterstamped—implies that it has been so treated.

President Wurtzbach Appoints Convention Committees

The following committees have been appointed by President Wurtzbach for the Philadelphia Convention of the American Numismatic Association, to be held October 5-9 next:

Committee to Obtain Papers to be Read at the Convention: Howland Wood, Dr. E. C. McGirk, Moritz Wormser.

Committee to Conduct Election of Officers: J. P. Hale Jenkins, George J. Bauer, J. M. Oliver, H. C. Hines.

Committee on Proxies: J. M. Oliver, Farran Zerbe, J. T. Kelly, Fred E. Merritt.

Committee to See that Nominations are Made: Fred Joy, Foster Lardner, Preston C. Pond, Hillyer Ryder.

A Correetion

One of our readers sends us the following correction in regard to the Bank Note Rarity, a $20.00 note with a $10.00 back mentioned in the last issue of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY. Our correspondent writes us as follows:

"Referring to your explanation of the Bank Note Rarity mentioned in your last Monthly, would say that no bank notes have fronts and backs printed separately which are then pasted together. The error occurred in this way: All or nearly all national bank notes are printed from plates bearing two denominations. The one in question undoubtedly had three tens and one twenty. The backs are printed first and after a sufficient time has elapsed for the ink to 'cure' or dry, they are brought out for the front printing. In laying the paper down the sheet was reversed, and this resulted in the top note having a ten-dollar face and a twenty-dollar back. The bottom note would have a twenty-dollar face and a ten-dollar back. The two middle ten-dollar notes would be all right except their backs would be inverted the same as many of our one, two and five-dollar silver certificates are found in circulation today."

Silver Pennies

The ancient silver penny was the first silver coin struck off in England, and the only one that was current among the Anglo-Saxons. Until the reign of Edward I. the penny was struck with a cross, so deeply indented that it might easily be parted into two for half-pence, or into four for farthings, hence these names. Copper pennies were coined by Boulton and Watt at Soho and Birmingham, about 1797, and were accounted the finest of British copper currency. They are very valuable today.

"Medallic Illustration of Naval History"

(Paper Read Before the British Numismatic Society)

By THE MARQUESS OF MILFORD HAVEN

Passing briefly over those allusions to sea power and sea battles which are to be found on numerous ancient coins, both Greek and Roman, among others on those of Carausius and Allectus, who assumed the purple in Britain toward the close of the third century, the republics of Genoa and Venice were the first powers to make practical use of the medallic art, and the first great naval event thus celebrated was the battle of Lepanto, fought in 1571, when the combined fleets of Christendom defeated those of the Moslem.

Queen Anne Shilling, with VIGO below bust, signifying the coin having been struck from silver captured from the Spaniards.

The first English naval medals commemorate the destruction of the Spanish Armada, but slightly in advance of them, in point of date, is the curious engraved plate, made for Sir Francis Drake in the Netherlands, in 1586, as a record of his famous voyage round the world. But four specimens of this remarkable work, which was probably presented by the famous seaman to his friends, now survive, and one of these, in its original leather case, is owned by the lecturer.

Armada Medal.

The Armada medals of Queen Elizabeth, and some other pieces commemorative of successes against the Spaniards during her reign, were probably distributed as mementoes, and it is not until the time of the Commonwealth that we find medals struck by order of Parliament to be used as naval rewards. These were the work of that great engraver, Thomas Simon, and in 1652 a gold medal in three classes, for flag officers, captains, and officers of lower

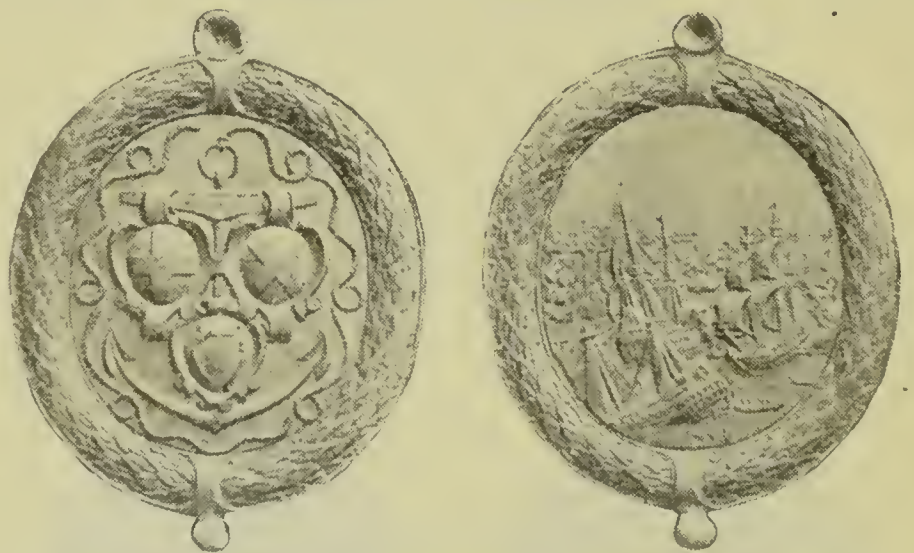
rank, was issued in connection with the British victories over the Dutch.

The Dutch wars of Charles II furnish several notable medals, and at about the same time the East India Company began to bestow medallic rewards upon such captains of its ships as distinguished themselves in the actions which they were often called upon to fight.

The reign of James II, himself an admiral previous to his accession to the throne, was not unnaturally marked by several naval medals, and thenceforward their number steadily increases. The battle of La Hogue, in which the Anglo-Dutch fleet practically destroyed that of France, was the subject of about thirty medals, and many bombardments of Channel ports during the next few years are recorded in the same way.

Under Queen Anne there is no falling off, and the coinage itself is made to serve a medallic purpose, for the name of VIGO is placed under the Queen's bust on gold and silver pieces struck from bullion captured from the Spaniards. Queen Anne not only struck many naval medals but, for the first time in our history, bestowed them on men of the fleet.

The reign of George I shows little of note, but in that of his son the many medals struck by Pinchbeck, in the metal named after himself, show how popular this form of commemoration had become.



Medal commemorating the defeat of Admiral von Tromp.

The war with France, at the close of the eighteenth century and the opening of the nineteenth, naturally gave the occasion for many medals, including—largest group of all—those struck in honor of the immortal Nelson. These had their beginning in 1798, after the battle of the Nile, and so numerous are they that the lecturer's collection includes some three score, to say nothing of numerous tokens on which the glory of the hero was recorded. One of the first of them was the medal struck by Mr. A. Davidson, Nelson's agent and friend, for distribution in the squadron which fought at the Nile. Most interesting is a gold badge bearing Nelson's bust and inscribed with the date of the battle of Copenhagen. The only other known specimen of this, in the possession of Mr. Payne, of Sheffield, has engraved on the back CAPT. GEO. MURRAY, H.M.S. EDGAR. The final stage of the Great War is marked by a medal showing Napoleon, a prisoner, on board H. M. S. "Bellerophon."

A Letter from Uncle George to his Nephew John

My Dear John:

It's a long lane that has no turning and all things come to those who wait, even your letters. I had imagined for sure that you had started on your little trip to Berlin, forgetting for the moment that your growing family were your protection and salvation even as my age is mine. Another year—one short year—and I would have escaped the new law that obliges every able-bodied man from 18 to 50 to work at least 36 hours each week at something of benefit to the war. Well, I will do my bit. I am now putting in 36 hours in my garden, and 36 hours at my coins. Twelve hours a day is enough work for me, and none but the very rich can afford to do more.

What interested me mostly in your letter was your references to coins. In these days everyone is a coin collector—though not all in the sense we are. The H. C. of L. prevents me from adding to my collection many coins I wish to. In fact, it and your Aunt combined have put a large-sized crimp in my collecting this year.

There is one gleam of hope amid the gloom. The Convention having been postponed until October, I shall not be able to attend. September is late enough, too late for many men to get away—but October! I have never quite understood who fixes the date, and I do not understand the postponement. There must be a big colored gentleman in the woodpile somewhere, and I suppose he has his own reasons which we shall never know.

Well, I'll have that money to use for other things, and coins may be one.

It takes all kinds of people to make the world, and all kinds of coins to make collectors. Strictly speaking, however, collectors are born—not made. A man may be wealthy, highly educated, even a member of a numismatic club, but unless he is born with the intuitive instinct of the true collector, the chances are against his ever becoming one.

It is not only the coins you have that stamp you a collector, the coins your collection lacks tell the tale. Read between the lines of any auction sale catalogue where the life work of some dilettante collector is offered for sale—what do you see?

Not a record of wise selection—simply one of coins sold him. He bought any coin that was offered—there his collecting ended. The larger the collection the more incomplete you will find it.

A collection need not be restricted to coins of metal. If you add a few hundred Arabic glass coins, also weights, you will give variety and tone to it. I have several hundred such specimens under my care, but fortunately I have lost the key to the cabinet they are in, and have not been able to look at them for years. Most of my glass coins are of the Fatimid dynasty, so termed because they claimed—the dynasty, not the coins—to be descended from Fatimah

(606-632), the daughter of Mahomet, by his wife Khadijah, and one of the four women the Prophet regarded as perfect. Well, he never met your Aunt or he would have made the number five.

Yes, I noticed that: "The finest specimen that has ever passed through my hands." Why cannot a cataloguer be more explicit? How are we to know what condition the others were in? Some of them may have been plugged. Such a description only sets me guessing. It reminds me of a collector I know. He will sometimes show me a twenty-five cent coin and solemnly remark, "This must be a rare coin because I've only seen this one and another in the forty years I've been collecting." Why, he has not been outside our town for twenty years, and has never seen a really decent collection outside his own. Wouldn't it open that man's eyes to go to Philadelphia for the coin festival in October! And what a time he would have looking over the five-cent trays! This man has a very good collection, and his coins are decent—they are clean. Some men I know show me really rare coins in strictly fine condition—that is, they would be if the letters of legends were not blocked up with dirt. There is no excuse for this. The dirt could easily be removed if attacked with a small fine thorn.

The numismatic clubs throughout the country are keeping up the good work. One club has, I note, dropped a member for non-payment of dues. This is a most serious offense, but I am glad they had the good taste to refrain from giving the member's name. Such items might well be omitted from their reports, they are of no interest to collectors generally.

Some men are square pegs and some are round, but the square peg fits better into a square hole than into a round one. The trouble is, some square pegs seem to have the idea they would fit nicely into round holes—but they don't.

It's a funny thing, how collectors are getting it in the neck these days. Our own Government prohibits the exportation of gold and currency. This protects the 1883 nickel without the word "CENTS." But alas! the rare "Shoot him on the spot" is left unprotected.

Great Britain forbids the exportation of all currency issued within the last hundred years. Canada goes one better, and places an embargo on all coins entering that country. This prevents any collector getting a parcel of coins from this country. The Canadians, however, are a resourceful people, they have their "Ships—Colonies & Commerce" series to fall back on in a pinch, and I hear their busy blacksmith is going to start business again. Well, here's luck to the old man.

Our own Government may at any time throw a high explosive shell into the numismatic camp and prohibit the importation of any more 1804 dollars from Hunland. But, if it does, I as a loyal American shall stand behind its actions.

It's a good thing we do not all collect on the same lines. If we did, how tiresome it would be when we looked over another man's collection. It is perhaps fortunate there are not many collectors like your

UNCLE GEORGE.

The Wilson-Pershing Medals

Alan R. Hawley, President of the Aero Club of America, received from the French designer, J. P. Le Gastelois, two bronze medals, one of President Wilson, the other of General Pershing. On the obverse side of the first is an excellent likeness of the President in bas-relief. On the reverse side is a design of an American eagle and the United States shield with the words "E Pluribus Unum." At the sides and bottom of this are the words, "Liberty, Justice, Peace." Around the edge is this line: "A Mr. Alan R. Hawley, pt. de L'Aero Club d'Amerique—Hommage, Respectueux de l'Auteur."

On the obverse side of the other medal is a bas-relief of General Pershing. On the reverse side is a delicate design of Ameircan soldiers, the Stars and Stripes flying, hastening to the front, with airplanes soaring above and a big cannon in action at the left. Below are the words "For Honor and Liberty of Nations." Around the edge is the same line as on the other medal.

The portraits were made from photographs furnished the artist by Mr Hawley.

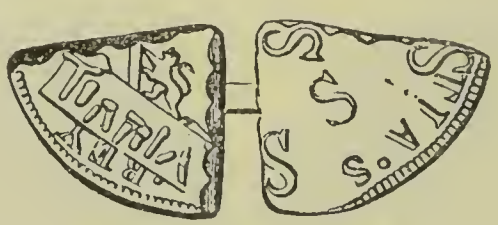
West India Coinage Notes

(Prepared for Mehl's Numismatic Monthly)

By M. SORENSEN

When the island of Hayti became independent of France in 1804, it fell into three warring communities with governments occupying the northwestern, the southwestern, and the eastern sections. In 1882 the entire island was united under the presidency of Jean Pierre Boyer; but in 1843 the territory was again divided into the present Republics of Hayti and Santo Domingo.

The coinage of the northern republic, first issued in 1807, under the presidency of Henri Christphe, consisted of Escalins and the inscription MONNOIE D'HAITI on the obverse, and on reverse a crowned shield bearing the initials HC of the President. In 1812 Christophe assumed the title of King, and as Henry I issued coins bearing his bust and the newly contrived arms of the Kingdom. Several patterns, especially of the silver Gourde, were made for this series.



Tortola, Necessity Piece.

The coinage of the mulatto republic in the south of the island began in the Presidency of Alexander Petion (1807-1819) and consisted of 25, 12 and 6 Centime pieces. On the obverse of these coins is found a trophy of military arms, and on the reverse the date of independence as AN XI, but more often with Arabian numerals, within a serpent circle. In 1817 the portrait of Petion appeared on the coins, as later did also that of his successor Boyer, who by 1822 had become recognized as President of the whole island. For on the latter date San Domingo, which had been taken by the English in 1809 and later ceded to Spain, again secured independence and joined the republic in the west.

The coins issued by this republic of a united Hayti have on the reverse the consular fasces and the legend LIBERTE EGALITE. In 1843 the island was again split up into two republics of Hayti and of San Domingo.

The Republic of Hayti was proclaimed an empire in 1849 by the President, Faustin Soulouque, who with the title of Faustin I held sway until 1858, when the republican title of President was restored by Geffrard. Copper coins of the value of 6, 2 and 1 Centimes were struck by the titular Emperor Faustin and bear his portrait, as do also the coins issued in the Presidency of Geffrard and Nord Alexis. A monetary law of 1880 provided for a coinage of gold and silver with a unit called a Gourde. No gold coins have been struck, but the silver Gourde, which is equivalent to the five-franc piece of the Latin Union, and its divisions, were issued in 1881.

The first coins issued by Santo Domingo were small Cuartillas bearing simply the name of the country on one side and on the other the value, ¼, and the date. The law of 1889 established a monetary system with a silver

DOMINICANO as the unit. The silver coinage of 1891 was based on the standard of the Latin Union. In 1901 Santo Domingo adopted the gold standard of the United States.

Great Britain has never provided her possessions in the Antilles with a coinage of any importance. In 1882 the Government of George IV authorized the coinage of a Half-Dollar, Quarter, an Eighth, and Sixteenth of a Dollar; and in the reign of William IV copper Threepenny and Three Halfpenny pieces were struck for these islands. Both the earlier and the later of these coins bear the bust of the monarch. But the currency of the islands has always been largely composed of coins of various Western countries, chiefly Spanish dollars, and a large quantity of cut and countermarked pieces. Excellent specimens of these necessity pieces are those of St. Lucia, of Tortola, and the countermarked Cayenne Sous of St. Kitts and Tobago.

Among the early coins and tokens that found currency in these islands specially interesting are those of the Sommer Islands, now known as the Bermuda. They are copper pieces ranging in value from the Shilling down to the Twopence, and have for types a hog, and a ship under sail. Since the Sommer Islands once belonged to the Virginia Company American numismatists have generally felt inclined to assimilate the coins struck for them to the American colonial series, and thus Mr. Crosby treats them in his excellent work on "The Early Coins of America." But to associate them so closely with the early currency of the English colonies of North America is somewhat misleading and not warranted by a possible plea of convenience inasmuch as the series may be more appropriately grouped with those of the West Indies.

St. Lucia, Necessity Piece.

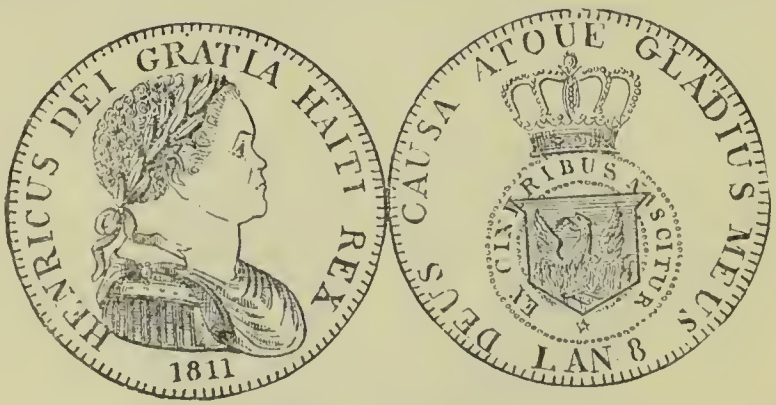
The first special coinage for Jamaica consisted of Threepenny and Three Halfpenny pieces in silver, and first issued in 1834. But there was no continuous coinage of these pieces, and many years elapsed between issues, which were few. In 1869 there was a coinage of nickel in the denominations of the Penny and Halfpenny to take the place of the bronze, because of the aversion of the colored population to the latter metal. The nickel Three-Farthing piece was added to the series in 1880.

The French colonies in the West Indies have, from the first years of their existence, shared the usual experience of the colonies of other European countries in America, except the Spanish, in suffering from a chronic scarcity of money. Repeated but generally futile efforts were made from time to time,

first by a private company, then by the Government, to remedy the difficulty. The short life of the French East India Company (1664-1677) accounts for the results of its well-planned colonial coinage, which consisted of silver and copper. In 1716 the Government undertook to provide a suitable currency for the American colonies, which was followed in 1721 by a second colonial coinage of a general nature. The types of the latter consisted of two L's in saltire and on the reverse COLONIES FRANCOISES. More especially for the Antilles were the silver coins of 12 and 16 Sols value, struck in 1731-2, though they bear the designation ISLES DU VENT. The obverse of these coins bears the portrait bust of the King.

Again in 1767 copper Sous were issued by the French Government for her American colonies, which later were current in Guadeloupe, but generally countermarked R F. The countermarked necessity pieces were a large and striking feature of the makeshift currency of Guadeloupe. For this purpose the coins of many countries were laid under contribution, including also those of the mother country. But Spanish silver, especially the Peso, was the chief coin which the countermark converted into the lawful currency of Guadeloupe. In order to provide pieces of lower value the Peso was cut into sections and the sections countermarked.

In 1897 the mit at Paris struck for Guadeloupe Bons de Caisse in nickel of the denomination of a Franc and ½ Franc. The types of this interesting token coinage are, on obverse, a fine Indian head and on reverse a tree.



Gourde, Haiti.

The possessions of Holland in the West Indies consist of a portion of the island of St. Martin and the island of Curacao. The early currency of St. Martin included a great deal of cut and countermarked Spanish Pesos. Similar necessity coins were employed in Curacao, but in 1821-22 a special coinage of Reals and Stuivers were issued for the island.

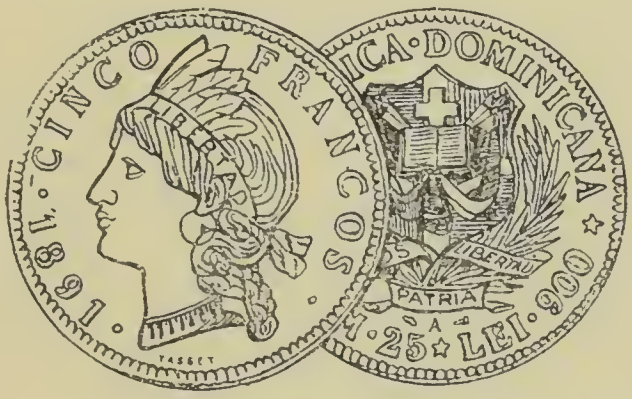
On account of the allied nature of the subject it might not be amiss here to give a few notes on the coinage for the British and French possessions in Central and South America.

British Honduras came into possession of the English in 1667, the ownership being finally acknowledged and confirmed by the Spanish in 1783. The first special coinage for the colony was provided in 1885, and was limited to the bronze Cent. Later the same provision of a silver coinage was made for this colony as for Canada, and consisted of a Fifty-Cent piece, a Twenty-five-Cent piece, and a Ten-Cent piece. All the coins of the colony are struck in England.

The colony called British Guiana consists of Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice, which was captured from the Dutch in 1803. The first English coinage of 1809 retained the monetary system of the Dutch, and pieces of 3 Guilders, 2 Guilders, 1 Guilder, and its Half and Quarter were struck for the colony. In 1839 this system was abolished and the American system with the Dollar and its divisions adopted, but no coins on this system were ever struck, the currency of the colony being composed chiefly of legalized silver of neighboring countries. In 1891 a Fourpence piece was struck for British Guiana and the West Indies, which was exactly equivalent to the ¼ Stuiver or Bit.

The French Colony of Cayenne or French Guiana, which has been a penal colony since the latter part of the eighteenth century, has never developed to such a degree as to require a special coinage of any importance.

The first measure looking to a provision of a currency for the colony was the edict of Louis XVI, dated December 10, 1779, ordering the transfer to the colony of 30,000 Livres of retired billion doubles Sols of France; and the supply of such coinage being exhausted before the amount named in the edict was made up, new pieces were struck, and with the same device, a crowned letter C, as was employed for countermarking the retired 2 Sols pieces; and, as in the latter case, the new pieces were stamped on one side only.



Dollar, Santo Domingo.

Again, in 1781 an edict issued made provision for a special coinage for the French Antilles, Isle de Bourbon, and for Cayenne ;but the Three Sols pieces ordered by the colony did not come into circulation, and in 1782 a billion Double Sou, valued at 1/10 Livre, was struck.

In 1818 Louis XVIII struck for Guayanne Francaise billion 10 Centimes pieces, with the crowned monogram of the King on the obverse. This colony also received part of a general colonial coinage in bronze of 10 and 5 Centimes pieces issued in 1825 and destined for all the French colonies. These pieces bear the effigy of Charles X. These bronze pieces were heavy and were practically rejected by the colonists. More successful was the issue of billion 10 Centimes pieces in 1846, which are still in circulation, coins popularly designated Marques Blancs.

Prior to 1915 the Republic of Cuba had no independent coinage, the money current in the island was that of many countries, chiefly of the United States, Mexico, France, Spain and England. But in that year Cuba issued its

first coinage, based on the gold peso as th eunit. The new coins conform in fineness and value to those of the United States of the same denominations. At the same time an order was issued prohibiting the circulating of foreign coins except those of the United States, and the former confusion was at an end.

The new Cuban coins were struck at the Philadelphia mint, and are in the following denominations: 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 20 Pesos in Gold; 10, 20 and 40 Centavos, and 1 Peso in silver, and 1, 2 and 5 Centavos in inckel. These coins are in very pretty designs and do credit t othe young republic.

As early as 1740 the Danish Government established a special coinage for its West Indies possessions, now the Virgin Islands of the United States, and there was no very long interruption of this coinage since its inception. The first coins issued by Christian VI were Skillings and its multiples in copper and silver. The types of these coins were, on obverse, the royal monogram and on the reverse of the silver, a ship under sail, while the copper pieces bear on reverse simply the statement of their value and the date. These denominations and types continued until the reign of Frederick VI (1808-1839), when a crowned shield of arms replaced the royal monogram on the new coinage, which consisted of a Double Real of 20 Skillings, a Real 10, and a Stuber of 2 Skillings. One the silver coins which Frederick VII issued for the West Indies is found the head of the King, and on the reverse the earlier inscription, DANSK AMERICANSK MYNT, is superseded by DANSK VESTINDISK MONT.

During 1859-1862 a new coinage was issued, conforming in value with the French—or Latin Union, rather—and U. S. system. The denominations was 20, 10, 5 and 3 Cents in silver, and 1 Cent in bronze. Obverse of these pieces have: FREDERIK VII. KONGE AF DANMARK. Head to right, below, 1859. Reverse: DANSK VESTINDISK MONT. Ship; below, 20 CENTS. Reeded edge. 26 mm. The 10, 5 and 3 Cent pieces are similar, excepting value. The 1 Cent piece is of a different design.

Again in 1905 a new coinage was issued, this time 1 and 2 Francs, and 50 Bits (10 Cents) in silver, 25 Bits (5 Cents) in nickel and 5 Bits (1 Cent) in bronze.

Collectors and Collectors---Reasonable and Unreasonable

Everyone interested in coins must be impressed with the fact that there are both reasonable and unreasonable collectors. Of course it may be said that dealers are divided into the same two classes, but it is of collectors that we write today.

The dealer is brought through his business, into contact with collectors residing in different sections of this country and Canada, because no one can advance very far on the numismatic road without having a source of supply—and this is generally a dealer. The great majority of collectors obtain

their coins either direct from one or through bidding for those offered in the auction sales held from time to time.

Any large collection of coins coming into the market on account of the death of the owner or for other reasons, pass as a rule into the hands of a dealer. He may buy the entire collection outright, or acting on the instructions of the consignor, prepare it for an auction sale. In this case the dealer acts only as the agent and is paid a commission for his services. He has to attribute and describe the condition of each coin. This may seem to some an easy task. A "fine" coin is "fine" and nothing else. But what YOU would call "fine" another collector may term "very fine" or "very good." We have our own standard as have all dealers and cataloguers, and aim to be as liberal as possible, but we will not favor one class at the expense of the other. Soon the collectors recognize the standard of every dealer and bid accordingly.

Roughly speaking, there are two classes of collectors—the reasonable and the unreasonable. The latter class are so because of their lack of experience and knowledge of coins and of business principles. Some few send bids on coins, specimens of which they have never seen, and because the type is not just what they imagined, consider they are at liberty to return weeks after the sale. This is not so; coins secured at bids sent to a sale are different from those sent out on approval by a dealer. Their return cannot be accepted on any account when they have been correctly described. No one should bid on coins unless they are prepared to accept them if secured at, or below, the bid sent. The bidder is supposed to know the coins he is bidding on and whether he wants them or not. If any information is desired respecting them, write us before the sale, and as early as possible before it. We are always at the service of the reasonable collector.

There are other ways of being unreasonable. Here is an actual incident that happened recently: A collector living in a Western city sent us—without any request, a considerable number of coins ,mostly common, of which we have numerous duplicates. We made him an offer for the lot, and here is his reply (his actual words:

'In the last year or so I have gotten several interested in collecting coins. The coins I sent you cost me about $400.00 and of course I had expected to get this amount. Therefore if you do not purchase, it will be necessary for me to discontinue buying any more of your coins, also to inform those I have interested of this."

Now, this collector is unreasonable. He did not buy from us ten per cent of the coins he sent, and those he did buy were practically all from our sales.

A man may buy books, engravings, old china or bric-a-brac, but he will not pack them up and send to a dealer, expecting to get every dollar they have cost him in cash by return mail. To expect it would be unreasonable.

Another incident: In May this year a collector sent us a coin he had bought in our July, 1916, sale. He wrote that he had decided it was not good enough for him, and asked us to accept it for what he had paid for it on his purchases at our sale held in April, 1918.

This collector is unreasonable. The coin returned was never ours. We acted only as the agents of the owner, who sent it with others to be sold.

Cataloguers and dealers, who devote the whole of their time to their business, have a right to be paid for their services the same as men engaged in any other business or profession.

Another collector returned a coin to us, explaining that it was not the lot he had meant to bid on. In the number of the lot he had mistaken a 7 for a 9. The two lots were of about similar value. This mistake was not our fault. He was generous enough to admit this, yet thirty odd days after the sale he coolly returned the lot.

This is unreasonable. We have no means of knowing what lots he meant to bid on apart from his bid sheet. It was taken for granted he was bidding on the lots he wanted.

There is also the enthusiastic collector whose bids secure more lots than he can spare cash to pay for. He bites off more than he can chew. To get out of the dilemma, he examines every coin sent with the strongest glass he can borrow, searching for reasons to return enough to bring the auction bill within his means. This done, he remits for those kept and returns the balance with some trivial excuse. It is hardly worth while mentioning the speculator who imagining he could sell a coin offered in a sale, at a good profit, sends a few bids. If the lot is secured, and he sells it, he settles the account. If he cannot sell the lot is returned after a long delay, with or without an excuse. This man once known never gets a second chance.

Unreasonable collectors are often so through lack of knowledge and experience. To this class we would say, "Put yourself in our place. Treat us as you would like to be treated." Taht's all there is to it. Do unto the dealer as you would have the dealer do to you. The unreasonable collector, however, is fortunately the exception and not the rule. By far the greater majority of collectors are fair and reasonable and a source of pleasure in their transactions with the dealer.

Rochester Numismatic Association

The 148th meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association was held at the Hotel Rochester on Tuesday, June 18th. Meeting called to order by the President, Mr. H. H. Yawger.

Members present: Messrs. Yawger, W. H. Amberg, Woodbury, Woolsey, L. G. Amberg, Plumb, Dr. Handler Hicks, Burling, Borradaile, Maunovry, Loizeau, Dr. Tillotson, Gillette, Savage, Bauer and Simmonds.

On Wednesday, June 12th, 1918, the R. N. A. members enjoyed a delightful outing. They left Rochester at 1:00 p. m. and drove to Sodus Point, where they sat down to a splendid dinner at the Harris Hotel. Notwithstanding the rain they enjoyed themselves very much; several of them were successful as fishermen, having caught several fish. The ride was about eighty-five miles. A photograph was taken by Mr. Burling in front of the hotel. The party returned to Rochester about 8:00 p. m.

Mr. Bauer suggested that the members in turn have an exhibit of coins at each meeting.

Meeting adjourned to Tuesday, July 2nd, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States, 50 cents a year; Canada and Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, OCTOBER 1918 No. 10

With The Editor

October---A Numismatic Month

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, and Jack is not alone in this. It will have the same effect on Tom, Dick and Harry. But on the other hand, all play and no work has its drawbacks also—especially for numismatists. August is a fine month for a holiday, so is September, but both are past now and October, the numismatic month, is with us once more. A few, a select few, will borrow a few days from it to devote to pleasure, but even borrowed days have to be repaid.

That's the worst of borrowing—having to pay back. A friend of ours told us once, he was expecting a visit from a rather advanced collector, and lacking several rarities in a series he was particularly interested in, he—being anxious to make a good showing to his visitor—borrowed them from a more fortunate collector. The scheme turned out well and he was duly complimented on his collection. He returned the borrowed pieces—but after doing so there seemed to be something wrong with his collection. He knew what it was, though, and wrote us respecting his "wants." We were able to supply them and now he is happy. He has the goods, and can show them at any time.

Duties We All Have to Perform

There are sacred duties that all men are called upon to perform. Those towards wife and children cannot be disregarded. He has assumed these and must meet and discharge them honorably. No man can do otherwise. But there are other duties none the less sacred. Those towards his mother and his country. To each he owes a duty he can never fully repay. He owes his life to his mother—his freedom to his country. Today his mother-country is calling to him for help. **Shall she call in vain?**

Through the Liberty and Victory Bonds he can help her—and by so doing he is forwarding his own best interests and safeguarding those of his dependents. Our country does not demand our money as a gift. She asks for it as a loan and gives gilt-edged security. Our lives, our liberty, depend on the success of the Allied arms. Let us make it sure—we can do so if we listen, and respond to our country's call.

China Takes Steps Towards a Gold Coinage

A London "Times" dispatch from Pekin states that a Presidential mandate was issued during August, authorizing the issue of gold treasury notes. It is announced that this is done "in view of facilitating international trade and preparing for the adoption of a currency system on a gold basis." The regulations prescribed by the mandate are designed to prepare the way for the consummation of a Japanese loan of 80,000,000 yen gold notes, which would remain in Japan as a reserve for the issue in China of 240,000,000 yen in gold notes. These will be convertible when coins are minted on a gold basis.

Our own form of government—republicanism—is making giant strides throughout the world. In no place is this more evident than in China, where after thousands of years of imperial rule, republicanism is now established. What the future holds for China it is impossible to say. But China—free, enlightened and democratic—with her teeming millions of population, possesses unlimited possibilities.

India, The Grave Yard of Gold Coins

There is a shortage of gold coins in the world today, and the question is often asked, "What has become of all the gold coins issued throughout the world?"

A tremendous amount is held in the treasury vaults of the different nations. The great banks have their gold reserves. But, an amount it is impossible to estimate is hidden—buried—throughout India.

Gold coins were first issued over twenty-five hundred years ago. They were minted in India before its invasion by Alexander the Great. While some of the Indian minted gold has been removed, it is estimated that by far the greater amount still remains there—hidden. The gold minted elsewhere that has entered India must have an enormous value, and most of it has remained there. Practically every gold coin that enters and becomes the property of a native is hoarded by him. At his death another may inherit—or if it has been buried safely, the secret dies with the owner. The native princes, the temples and the priests possess enormous hoards of gold of all countries and periods. At times a hoard, buried long centuries ago, is unearthed. To such lucky finds we owe many choice gold coins, some minted before the time of Eucratides. India holds far more than its share of the gold coins minted during the last two thousand years.

The Great Seal of The United States Designed by a Britisher

The great seal of the United States was adopted by Congress one hundred and thirty-six years ago. The design was suggested by Sir John Prestwich, an eminent English antiquary, to John Adams, then United States Minister to Great Britain, and was formally accepted by Congress on June 20, 1782. It is composed of a spread eagle, bearing on its breast an escutcheon with thirteen stripes, and in its talons holding an olive branch and thirteen arrows, symbolic of both peace and war. The eagle, the suggestion of an Englishman, has ever since been the national bird of the United States.

Our Coming Sales

Of course you know what a "Mehl" sale is by this time. Some are larger than others, that's about the only difference—all are good. No matter what series you are interested in, American or foreign, you will find it well represented in our sales of the coming season. We have at present consignments on hand for several sales, and these include many choice pieces that you will want to bid on. If you are on our mailing list you will receive the catalogues as issued. If you are not, a request from you will put your name on it.

Our Last Sale

Speaking of auction sales, it will undoubtedly interest you to know that at my last, out of over nine hundred lots sold to close on to two hundred purchasers, **only two lots have been returned**, and these aggregate only $3.65 in value. These were returned by a chronic kicker—one who invariably returns something. The face value of the two lots returned is $3.00. I do not mind, in fact I invite, the return of unsatisfactory lots from fair collectors, but it is unfair to return a fifty-cent note purchased at sixty-five cents, and a $2.50 gold piece secured by a three-dollar bid, for the reason that they are not—according to his standard—perfectly centered—being one thirty-second of an inch difference in the margins! That's the excuse given.

The New Lincoln Half Dollar

What we consider the most beautiful and one of the most interesting additions to our commemorative series, has just made its appearance—the Lincoln Half Dollar, commemorating the Centennial of the State of Illinois.

The accompanying illustration gives the type of the coin, and makes further description unnecessary, but the illustration does not give the appearance of the coin justice.

There were only 100,000 pieces struck, and these were all distributed among the different counties of Illinois in proportion to their population on condition they be sold at a premium and the profit shall be used either to promote some county centennial celebration or to be applied upon some form of war relief.

Owing to its limited coinage and wide distribution, this coin will undoubtedly become the scarcest of our Commemorative series.

American Numismatic Association Convention Postponed

In a telegram received just before going to press we are informed that the Convention of the American Numismatic Association, which was scheduled to be held in Philadelphia on October 5th to 9th, has been indefinitely postponed on account of the influenza epidemic prevailing in that section of the country.

Decimalisation of the British

By S. H. HAMER.

In introducing the Decimal System of currency for consideration. I would remind you that other countries have such systems, but that the denominations vary.

For a system to be adopted for Great Britain and the Colonies, which would not be on the same basis of that of some leading Nation, would not in any way facilitate international commerce, as, obviously, the new British currency would need to be converted into that of whatever Nation the transaction was being conducted with.

Then again, any change which is made, should be of such a nature as not to leave an opportunity for fraud, or undue inflation of prices, of the common articles of daily purchase.

The present time, when the gold currency is superseded by the treasury notes, affords a unique opportunity for the change.

It may not be amiss, just to consider how there came to be 240 pence in the pound. In Anglo-Saxon times, the silver penny was the circulating medium of exchange. This coin was cut in two to make a half penny, and in four pieces to make a farthing.

In troy-weight, by which gold and silver are weighed, 20 pennyweights equal one ounce, and 12 ounces, one pound, hence the 12 20's equal 240.

The silver penny was the highest denomination of a coin till the reign of Edward III, 1327-1377, when groats (4 pence) and half groats were added. The weight of the silver coins was not uniform, though nominally 24 grains, they were from 22¼ to as low as 18 grains for the pennies, and from 60 to 48 grains for the groats.

The penny being an ancient national coin, has a distinct claim to consideration.

Some suggest that the pound or sovereign should be the unit, but as there are 240 pence in the pound, and not 250, it would mean that the bronze currency would have to be reduced in value.

This would cause much trouble, as has been recognized by all who have given any thought to the matter.

Here are a few examples: 240 penny stamps are now sold for one pound note. Would the postal authorities be prepared to supply 250? As, if the postal rate was still one penny, such would needs be.

Many things are now sold for one penny each, or for a number of pence eace; would the makers be likely to supply 250, where previously 240 only were given for one pound?

Before the war, milk could be bought at 3 pence per quart or 80 quarts for a sovereign. Under the altered conditions, is it likely that the dealers would supply 10 penny worth of milk extra for the sovereign? Certainly not, nor could it be expected.

Hence any change which alters the financial value of the bronze currency will be most disastrous to the poor, and a general nuisance to all.

My suggestion is, to slightly increase the intrinsic value of the gold coins to make them on equal value with the 5-dollar piece and the 2½-dollar piece of the United States of America.

This would mean the addition of about 16 2-5 pennyworth of gold to the amount now used to make a sovereign, and half the amount, to that used in the making of a half sovereign.

As the silver and the bronze currency are really "tokens," the metal-value being much below the face value, this will allow of the "new standard sovereign," or 5-dollar piece, being regarded as equal to 500 cents; each of one halfpenny; the 2½-dollar piece being of the value of 250 cents; the dollar, of 100 cents; the half dollar, of 50 cents; the quarter dollar, of 25 cents; there should also be a 20-cent, a 10-cent, and a 5-cent piece. The dollar, to the 5-cent piece, all being in silver.

If the silver currency is not used for international exchange the dollar need not be any larger than the present 4-shilling piece. The half dollar, the size of the florin, the quarter dollar, the size of the shilling, and the others proportionately smaller.

And while the change is being made, why not reduce the dia of the 2-cent piece, or one penny, to about 1-inch dia, the once-cent piece and the half cent proportionally smaller?

A currency of equal value with that of the United States of America needs only to be suggested, to be fully recognized, the saving in clerical work, connected with international exchange being enormous.

Now as regards the method of exchanging the present currency for the decimal currency:

Treasury notes for 5 dollars and 2½ dollars will be issued, silver and bronze coins (tokens), as above stated. The exchange will be made at all banks, and in small country places, where there are no banks, at the local postoffice, in the following manner: A 5-dollar treasury note will be given in exchange for a £1 note and tenpence, a 20-dollar treasury note in exchange for a 10-shilling note and five pence.

The exchange of silver will be on the lines of calculating the number of halfpence in the money offered for exchange; and the number of cents given in exchange will be equal to the number of halpence. All the exchange being done at the banks or postoffices, confusion or inconvenience will be prevented.

In the same manner the value of a person's wages as per the new issue will be decided by calculating the original amount in halfpence, then stating the amount arrived at, as so many cents.

A person having £2.10.0 per week has 1200 cents or 12.00 dollars. A person having 15/6 per week will be rated at 372 cents or 3.72, viz, 3 dollars 72 cents. A suit of clothes listed at £4 12 6 would be priced at 22.20 or twenty-two dollars 20 cents.

A banking account would be altered by having the pounds, shillings and pence converted into dollars and cents; viz: An account standing at /11573.14.11½ would be reduced to halfpence or cents, the amount being 55553.99, viz, fifty-five thousand five hundred and fifty-three dollars, ninety-nine cents. All financial statements being made out in dollars and cents, the calculation of such will be far more simple than that of any system having "mils" or other denominations.

The mandatory money to be in 2, 4, 6 and 8-cent silver pieces, so far as international exchange is concerned, the 5-dollar piece, not being of less value than the sovereign, but rather more, the extra value will be duly accounted for in the rating of the piece.

No apology is necessary in advocating this system, which is simplicity itself, and does no injury to any one.

Values of British and American Gold Coins

Rather a Peculiar Situation Exists—A Contradictory Feature Explained

New York.—One of the anomalies of the local exchange situation is that gold sovereigns should be selling at $5.10, or at a premium of almost 5 per cent, when sterling exchange is quoted approximately $4.75½ in the pound, or at a discount of over 2 per cent. Expressed in simpler terms, this is the situation: A piece of gold containing approximately 113 grains of fine metal and bearing the stamp of the British mint is exchanging in New York for the equivalent of 110.4 grains of American gold, whereas the money equivalent of 110.4 grains of gold in New York is exchanging for the equivalent of 113 grains of gold deliverable in London.

In theory, at least, 113 grains of British gold located in New York should exchange for a similar amount of American gold likewise available here, as it is merely a matter of the weight of fine gold. The imprints on the coins in effect merely indicate their gold content, and as in this country the stamp of the United States mint is, of course, as trustworthy as that of the British mint, it would at first blush appear that the coins should exchange for each other on a parity basis. But in foreign countries the British stamp enjoys far greater prestige. In certain parts of Asia, for example, sovereigns have practically a monopoly of the circulation. People going abroad from this country, therefore, are anxious to have a supply of gold sovereigns in their pockets, and as the supply is exceedingly scarce on account of the ban Great Britain has placed on the exportation of the coins, their price has been forced to a premium. In the early part of July it even mounted to $5.65 for a few days as the result of a relatively large demand coming from a party of Arabians who were about to embark for Mesopotamia to join the British forces there.

Coins and Tokens of Canada

(Communications and contributions on any numismatic topic are always welcomed for publication in the Numismatic Monthly, but the publication of same cannot be held as the editor's endorsement or the views expressed.)

Canadians owe a debt of gratitude to the New York Numismatic Club for the gracious and kindly interest manifested in "The Coins and Tokens of Canada." This was the subject of the evening at the July meeting of the Club, and the report of the proceedings, given in the August number of **The Numismatist** is of great interest to Canadian collectors.

The subject was introduced by the President, Dr. Valentine, who among other things "referred to the colonial issues of George III in silver in fractions of the dollar." These pieces, however, were issued under the fourth George, not the third.

Another member, Mr. Wood, "mentioned important finds made in the Canadian series in Boston in times gone by. He said quite a number of coins had been unearthed there which sold for from $20 to $30 each." Yet strange to say, Mr. Prosky later in the evening claimed that the lack of "speculative qualities" in Canadian coins was the reason they "were not as popular with collectors as the United States series."

The Canadian series, according to Mr. Wood, seems to have been a veritable Tom Tiddlers ground for the fortunate Boston collector who owned a spade and appreciated the "speculative qualities" of this series. Exchange Street must have been torn up from end to end.

Mr. Wood also "spoke of having written **several works** on Canadian coins, but received little encouragement from over the border, so stopped his efforts in this direction."

It is to be greatly regretted that Mr. Wood was so easily discouraged in the good work he had started. The cessation of his work in this direction is probably the reason why "lately the bottom seems to have fallen out as far as this class of coins is concerned."

A paper by Mr. Wood, "The Canadian Blacksmith Coppers," which appeared during 1910 in **The Numismatist** gave much valuable information respecting this—up to then—practically inedited series. Previous to this, in 1906, he had published a most valuable photographic chart which showed some forty-three varieties of Breton 997—the Ships, Colonies and Commerce tokens. Both of these works, all I am aware of published by Mr. Wood referring to the Canadian series, are highly valued by collectors on this side of the border.

Mr. Prosky "exhibited an unusual set of metal Canadian dog licenses dating from 1877 to 1891, complete." This is numismatics with a vengeance! I have been interested in Canadian tokens for many years, but have never yet met a collector in this country who collected these brass tags. The only time I have seen one is when pendant to a dog collar—worn by a dog. These tags generally bear the name of the city issuing same, a serial number, year for which issued and the interesting legend, C. L. P. (City license paid.) I know no reason why these tags should be collected unless they possess the important "speculative quality."

More interesting to Canadians is the statement made by the same gentleman that thirteen different combinations of dies or breaks have been found by him in the Nova Scotia half-cents of 1861 and 1864.

I have made a careful examination of over seventy of these coins, but the only two real die varieties found are one of each date. On those of 1861, the ornament between crown and date is distinctly more to the left than on those of 1864. Some of each date show the outer circle enclosing crown and date more or less defective. Some show on reverse, suction marks of the Queen's face. I do not consider these, nor the cracks, or defective letters, as die varieties, though the latter show that more dies than one were struck from the parent one.

"Mr. Smith mentioned of his finding many years ago a halfpenny token of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick bearing the word 'Success'." It is not stated that he was the first collector to discover this token, but if so he has earned the sincere thanks of all Canadian collectors.

Mr. Boyd spoke of the magnificent collection of Mr. W. W. C. Wilson, of Montreal, whom he had visited. It would be interesting to know if Mr. Boyd had made a careful examination of the different varieties of the Ships, Colonies and Commerce tokens in this famous collection, and if so, whether it contains a specimen of Lee's No. 5.

Several other members took part in the proceedings and related their experience with the series.

It is fortunate for Canadians that Dr. Courteau, Judge Lees and Mr. McLachlan, three foremost Canadian collectors, continue their study of this series and from time to time give us the benefit of their labors. It is to be sincerely hoped that they will not be easily discouraged, but will continue their much-appreciated work.

S. S. HEAL.

Notes on Current Numismatic Topics

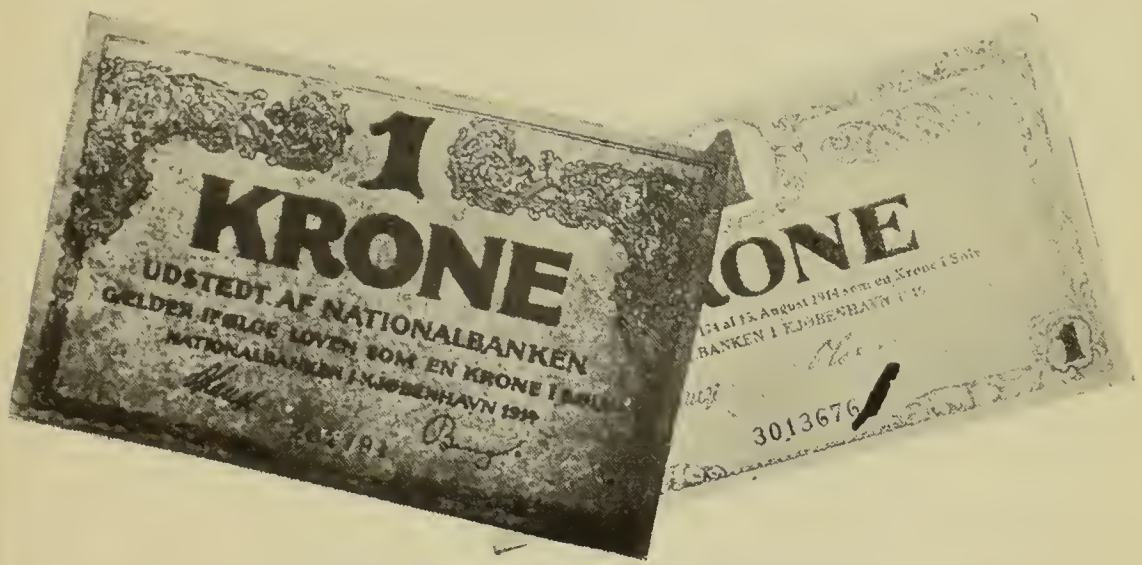
There are many indications that the war is becoming wearisome to Germany in more than one way. One of the surest signs of this is the desperate means employed to keep up a passable volume of money wherewith to carry on business at home. All money in metal of any value has disappeared from circulation, and instead is in use small coins in iron, zinc, tin, or in compositions of other cheap metals. Besides such cheap tokens nothing but paper circulates. The country is flooded with paper. There is such a multitude of issues by government, states, cities, banks and communities, that it is safe to predict that only a small fraction of all this paper will ever be redeemed. When a country issues notes of a face value of only ¼ cent, it is safe to assume that has reached the very bottom of its resources.

All late issues of German paper currency bear evidence of being products of the war. Take the 1-pfennig note from Ober Lausitz, shown in accompanying illustration, and it will be seen that each corner is decorated with an iron cross.

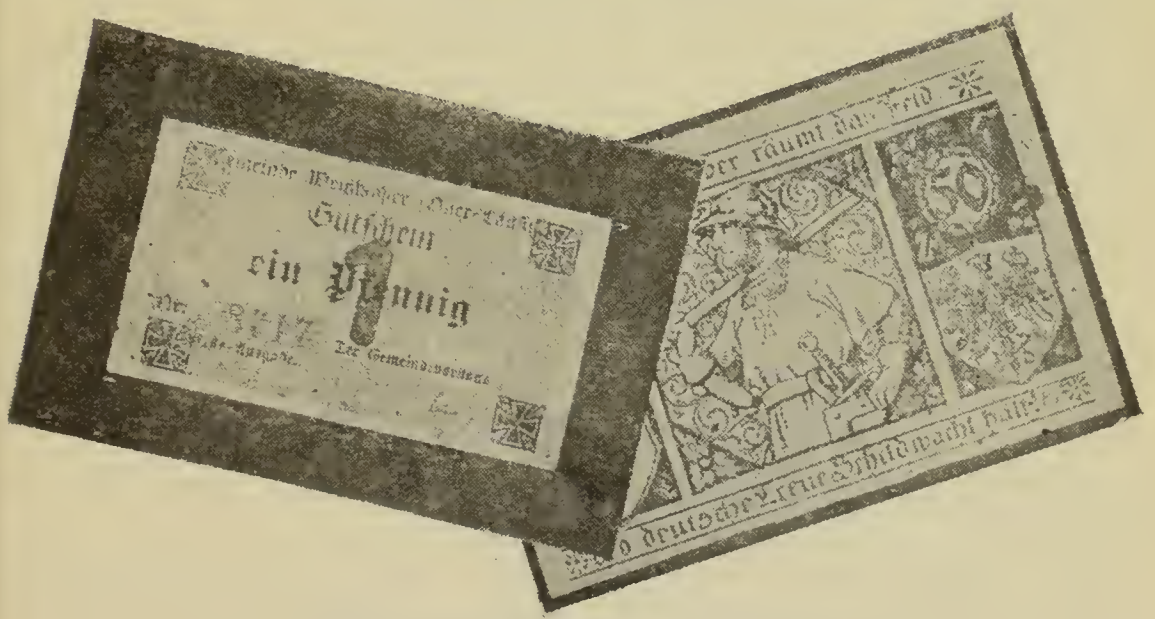
Or take the more elaborate 50-pfennig note, issued by the city of Lindenberg, Algau, showing that town and the German coat of arms. The proud

warrior with tin hat and sword on his shoulder—he, too, is sporting an iron cross. But the bombastic legend: "Even the devil flees the field before the brave German soldier," is thoroughly Prussian. Kaiser Bill himself could not have done better!

Said Kaiser Bill has instituted a new decoration for his braves, this time quite an elaborate affair, to be given U-boat crews, who have made at least three trips at sea, and have accomplished something "good for the Fatherland."



Danish Emergency Notes, 1914 and 1916.



German 1 Pfennig Note. Ober Lausitz.
German 50 Pfennig Note. Lindenberg, Algau.

The Norwegian mint engraver, Ivar Trondsen, has designed a medal commemorating the meeting of the three Scandinavian kings in Christiania, November, 1917. The obverse shows the scene, where the kings join hands in an agreement, and the sentence: MIDT I VERDENS BANKEROT, HVIS

ILD SLAAR OP MOD NORDEN, DET HAANDSLAG PAA KRISTIANIA SLOT VIL LYSE OVER JORDEN. (In the midst of a world in ruins, the flames of which are nearing the North, this handshake at Kristiania castle will shine over the world.) On the reverse is repeated the words of King Gustaf: LAD OS SKABE EN FORENING, EN FORSTAAELSENS, EN HJERTERNES UNION. (Let us form a union, based on understanding and good will.)

When the war broke out and induced people in the different European countries to hoard their silver, stringent measures had to be taken by the governments to relieve the situation. It has been mentioned in this magazine how the Scandinavian countries overcame the difficulty by issuing notes in denominations of 1 and 2 kroner. The first Danish 1-krone note was a very plain a–air, much ridiculed by the populace. The second issue, in 1916, is held in more artistic designs, as will be seen by the accompanying illustration.

The Coins and Tokens of Australia

A Short Discussion as Presented at the New York Numismatic Club.

At the August meeting of the New York Numismatic Club, Dr. Valentine gave an historical sketch on the coins and tokens of Australia. He reviewed the early coinage history and referred to the discovery of gold in Australia in 1851. He mentioned the first coin used in Australia, being stamped pieces of the issue of Charles IV of Spain. The 1 pound gold coin of 1852, issued at Adelaide was mentioned, and the one struck at Sylney in 1855. He referred to the copper tradesmen's currency of which there are approximately 100 varieties known, dating from 1855 to 1910. He mentioned the coin types used, including the emu, natives and the kangaroo.

Mr. Frey referred to the "holey dollar" and said in 1813 10,000 pounds of Spanish dollars were used, by cutting a piece from the center. This coin was current until 1829 (see Frey's Dictionary, page 110). Around the edges of the perforations were placed the words "New South Wales. 1813," and on the reverse "Five Shillings, 1813." The central piece was known as a dump, and was counterstamped with a crown and value of 15 pence.

Mr. Proskey said the coins struck in gold at Adelaide were originated to save the loss of gold dust to the traders. The government assay office struck gold coins of the values of sovereign and half sovereign from 1855 to 1869. In 1910 the new 3, 6 pence and shilling appeared, also the new issues of penny and half penny. He mentioned a 3 pence dated 1838, struck by a Swedish firm. Mr. Proskey exhibited a large collection of the merchants tokens and mentioned the Holloway token as the most common, and stated a great many of the tokens had been made by W. J. Taylor.

Mr. Proskey listed his tokens under the following towns, localities and metals: Adelaide, So. Australia, Auckland, N. Z., Bendigo, Vic. Brisbane, Queens; Castlemaine, Wiv. Cambellton, Tasmania; Christchurch, N. Z., Canterbury, N. S. W., Eagle Hawk, N. Z., Grahamtown, N. Z.; Geelong, Victoria; Goulburn, N. S. A.; Hobart-town, Tas.; Ikewich, Queens; Melbourne, Vic. (also Tas.); Morpeth, N. S. W.; Newton, Tas.; New South Wales, New Zealand; New Plymouth, N. Z.; Rockhampton, Queens; Sydney, N. S. W.; Taranski; Wanganui, N. Z.; Wellington, N. Z. Exhibits: Gold 6, silver 10, copper 109 pieces.

Pinching Germany's Wallet

A modest market item reveals the precaution being taken by the United States to prevent Germany deriving profit from anything of American origin.

The item simply related that a price of $1.01½ the ounce had been set on fine silver, that the export of none would be allowed except for "civic and military purposes," and that exporters would not be allowed to absorb supplies by overbidding the fixed price on the American market.

The United States, Mexico and Bolivia virtually control the silver production of the world. Mexico had already prohibited the export of gold and silver. Bolivia has showed anxiety to follow the lead of the United States.

Little silver will therefore come into possession of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey. There is no "civil or military" reason why neutral nations, still maintaining trade relations with any of the "central powers" should have silver. From the American standpoint they do not need it.

The export will not be allowed for the arts and manufactures.

The United States and Britain control the principal sources of gold supply. The "central powers" have practically none. Aside from Mexico the neutral powers are similarly situated. European nations not numbered among the Allies will get little gold or silver, except by the reduction of their jewelry and household goods in the form of plated and solid ware.

That silver is becoming scarce in Germany is indicated by orders that soldiers in the front lines must carry only paper money. The Kaiser cannot spare the few marks that might be removed from home circulation by the capture of his soldiers.

Without silver, Germany will go no great lengths in developing trade in the occupied provinces of Russia. The Russians have plenty of paper money of their own manufacture.

These items of preparedness all count. They all help to win the war and will help to keep it won after it has been finished.

Our Exportation of Silver

The melting down of the silver dollars in the United States Treasury and the exportation of the bar silver resulting and other silver bullion possess great interest to the average American citizen.

Most of this silver bullion is sent to India, whose people have a strong prejudice in favor of metal money, and India is exporting a vast amount of material used in the war by England and France, and, in fact, all the Entente Allies, including ourselves.

To pay for these goods in the money desired by the people of India caused a tremendous drain on the supply of silver of Entente Allies, and to

meet this urgent demand the United States has taken the great amount of silver bullion and silver dollars lying idle in its Treasury and is exporting it to India to be used in paying for war supplies. Something like a hundred million silver dollars have been melted down and exported.

What great assistance it was to the Allies, including the United States, is shown by the statement of Sir James Meston, financial member of the Viceroy's Council, who is reported as saying:

"Probably few people in America realize how vitally important to India and to India's share in the war was the legislation passed in Washington releasing large quantities of silver for use in alleviating the currency situation there. For this action India as well as the British Empire and the Allies owe a debt of gratitude to the United States which it is hard to overstate."

New York Numismatic Club

Regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club, held Sept. 13, 1918, President D. W. Valentine presiding.

The following members present: Mr. Boyd, Mrs. Boyd, Messrs. Belden Elder, Frey, Farnham, Proskey, Kohler, Saltus, Smith, Swanson, Mrs. Swanson, Miss Alice Swanson; Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Valentine; Messrs. Wood, White and Wyman.

Life membership or permanent fund, $200; Messrs. Frey, Wilson, Boyd and Smith having paid for membership. Medals sold 34, on hand 16.

Mr. Boyd announced that at the next meeting Mr. Swanson would address the Club on the making of coins and medals.

At the next meeting the Nominating Committee will be elected to select officers for the next year.

Dr. Valentine made some preliminary remarks. He said it was the intention to make this a slightly humorous and instructive meeting and to invite lady guests. He expressed pleasure in having those present with us. He then introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. A. R. Frey, the Vice-President, who read the paper of the evening, "Colors in Relation to Numismatics." At the conclusion this paper was referred to the Publication Committee and will be incorporated in the forthcoming Year Book of the Club.

Mr. Proskey exhibited a collection of coins showing the different shades of colors in metals used.

Mr. Saltus remarked that all the mints in the West are closed and visitors not allowed in them since the war. Mr. Saltus told of curious information he learned while in Denver in connection with the Indians and their medals, given by this Government. The Indians think if they wear these medals they are protected from personal harm. They are supposed to keep bullets away. One chief whose medal had a bullet buried in it, returned the medal

saying it was no good since it did not keep bullets away. Mr. Saltus mentioned the charms worn by the natives of the West Indies. He said some of the negroes wore coins for charms, even in New York, especially on St. John's eve. Many Cuban negroes wear charms. He said interesting and weird stories were connected with these charms, connecting them with voodoism in Hayti. He said someone ought to look this subject up in New York, as it might be found interesting.

Mr. Proskey spoke of Arab and other charms which were sometimes put into frames. Voodoism charms he said existed all over the world.

Mr. Wormser spoke of the present gold shortage. He attributed the shortage and failure to increase in value to the fact that the Government had fixed the price at $20 per ounce. He spoke of a movement now on foot to increase the price.

THOS. L. ELDER,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Rochester Numismatic Club

The one hundred and fifty-first meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association met at the Hotel Rochester, in Rochester, Tuesday, August 6th, 1918, and was called to order by the Vice-President, Dr. S. Handler.

The Secretary read an article from the newspaper regarding one of our members, Mr. Joseph T. Alling, which read as follows "Joseph T. Alling has arrived safe in France. A cablegram to that effect was received this morning at the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Alling is on a special mission to France, Italy and England for the National War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A."

Ex-President F. E. Merritt spoke regarding the Philadelphia Convention, and told the members that he was sure that they would have a very pleasant and enjoyable time.

On Thursday, July 25th, 1918, the R. N. A. members took another trip to Sodus Point.

Exhibits were as follows: By W. H. Amberg, five-dollar bill of the Irish Republic. By Mr. Merritt, three-dollar gold piece 1865; very fine. By Mr. Savage, following two and one-half dollar gold pieces: 1831 brilliant proof, 1832 uncirculated, 1845 uncirculated, 1871 gold dollar, proof; cents, 1823 restrike, 1812 small date, extremely fine, 1794 half cent, Gilbert 4, uncirculated.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

One hundred and fifty-third meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association called to order by President H. H. Yawger, September 3rd, 1918.

Members present: Messrs. Yawger, W. H. Amberg, Bauer, Burling, Dr.

Handler, Borradaile, L. G. Amberg, Maunovry, Bernstein, Woolsey, Savage, Hicks and Gillette.

Mr. Bauer spoke regarding the supposed memorial medal to be issued by the Association. The President appointed the following committee for same Messrs. Bauer, Gillette and Koeb.

A discussion took place regarding the A. N. A. Convention.

It was suggested that members exhibit Australian tokens at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned to Sept. 17th, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

Chicago Numismatic Society

The regular monthly meeting of Branch One, A. N. A., was held on September 13th. The following were present: Dr. Luttenberger, Miss Naerup, and Messrs. Leon, Kelly, De Cou, Wilson, Hinckley, Josephson, Ripstra, Boyer and Davis.

Mr. Leon distributed to those present, the new Illinois Centennial half dollars.

Mr. Ripstra exhibited a very beautiful master die, a piece of his own work, and gave a brief explanation of the method of preparing dies for the striking of medals from this master die.

The exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Brown: Nine sets of pattern pieces for Liberia, struck in aluminum, bronze and white metal.

By Mr. Josephson: Half dime of 1797, two Kroner Jubilee piece of Norway, three types of one Krone pieces of Sweden, and a Proclamation Half Crown of Charles I dated 1643.

By Mr. De Cou: Didrachm of Alexander and a small silver coin of Corcyra.

By Mr. Kelly: Restrike of the Fugio dollar in bronze, and a fine specimen of the Disme, the first coin struck by the United States Mint.

By Mr. Boyer: $50 California Slug, and a number of interesting pieces of paper money, including $100 note of the Bank of the United States dated 1836, $500 Texas note, $5 San Jose, California, gold note, $20 Compound Interest Treasury note, $20 note, series of 1869, and $2 note on the Bullion Bank of Washington.

By Mr. Leon: A piece of Cob money counterstamped by the Republic of Central America, $1, $2, and $5 notes issued by Lyons City, Iowa, in 1858, three very fine 1793 cents, and five very fine medals of Washington, Lincoln, Grant and Garfield.

By Mr. Ripstra: The large Centennial medal of Washington struck in black walnut.

Mr. Hinckley exhibited part of his collection of Civil War necessity money. He has specialized in privately issued fractional notes, and his collection is one of the most complete in the country. Many very scarce and unusual specimens were shown.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

Medal Commemorating the Aerial Crossing of the English Channell by King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians

The American Numismatic Society has prepared, and will shortly issue, a special medal, bearing the seal of the Society, in honor of King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians. This medal has been designed by Mr. Theodore Spicer-Simson, an artist of international reputation.

The inscription on the obverse is "King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians." The inscription in Latin is an abbreviation from the opening paragraph of Caesar's Commentaries on the Gallic War, "(Horum eorum) fortissimi sunt Belgae"—"The bravest of these are the Belgians"—thus expressing our national admiration for the Belgians as represented by their sovereigns.

The particular event commemorated by the medal is referred to on the reverse and explained by the inscription, "Commemorating their aerial crossing of the English Channel, July 1918." It will be recalled that King Albert and Queen Elizabeth made the passage in order to be present at the silver anniversary of the marriage of King George and Queen Mary of England. The return was also made by aeroplane.

A copy in gold will be struck for presentation to their Majesties. Unnumbered copies in silver will be presented to H. M. Victor Emmanuel III, King of Italy; H. M. Alfonso XIII, King of Spain; H. M. King Manuel II, all of whom are honorary members of the American Numismatic Society

The subscription for this medal is open to members of the American Numismatic Society only, and the issue will be limited to the number subscribed for up to October 30, 1918.

The Springfield Coin Club

The sixty-seventh meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held on September 11th, with President Frazier in the chair. Members present (eight): Stone, Pond, Oliver, Morse, Frazier, Curtis, Prevost and A. W. Morr's.

Several communications were read, among them being one from the

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society asking us to indorse them for the 1919 Convention, San Francisco, but the concensus of opinion was that this was an individual affair and not one for the Club to act on. A letter was also read from the American Numismatic Society in which their Curator, Mr. Wood, very kindly extended the courtesy of the A. N. S. to members of the Springfield Coin Club while on their way to the Convention in Philadelphia.

The entertainment of the evening was particularly interesting and consisted of an exhibit of paper money and a talk by our fellow-member, J. W. Morse.

A. W. MORRIS, Secretary.

Automatic Coin-Handling Machine Saves Labor

For banks, public-utility companies, and other commercial institutions that handle large volumes of small coins, a counting, sorting, sacking, and packaging machine is coming into use. It is supposed to do, with perfect accuracy and at high speed, the work that in some business houses demands the services of a corps of employes. The apparatus will accommodate coins of five denominations at one time. The money, consisting, for instance, of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and half dollars, is fed into a hopper at the top. The mechanism, driven by an electric motor, sorts the coins, counts them and registers their sum in terms of dollars and cents, and wraps them in the customary paper rolls. Or, if desired, it will package those of certain denominations and sack the others simultaneously. Also, it detects and discards worn and mutilated coins without including them in the count. The capacity of the machine is 800 coins a minute. —Popular Mechanics.

Portuguese Currency Situation

Owing to the disappearance of practically all gold and silver in Portugal, the country is on a paper basis, according to W. L. Lowrie, American Consul-General at Lisbon. New notes of 5, 10 and 50 centavos have been issued by the Bank of Portugal. Small coins of 1 and 4 centavos have been placed in circulation to relieve the scarcity of small change. The latest statement of the Bank of Portugal shows the total issue of paper money as follows: Gold notes, 156,079,813 escudos silver notes, 16,772,947 escudos; total, 172,-862,430 escudos. The metallic reserve was placed at 12,925,179 escudos. On Aug. 5, 1914, (at the outbreak of the war,) the notes in circulation totaled 86,406,685 escudos and the metallic reserve amounted to 16,644,127 escudos. The par value of the escudo is about $1.08. The premium of Portuguese gold compared with paper was 14 to 18 per cent in August of 1917, and in November it was from 100 to 110 per cent.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher

Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States, 50 cents a year; Canada and Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, NOVEMBER, 1918 No. 11

With The Editor

Philadelphia Convention Forbidden

It is old news now to our readers, that on account of the influenza epidemic the A. N. A. Convention was forbidden by the proper authorities of Philadelphia.

Of course, the parties responsible for the setting of the Convention date so late could not possibly have foreseen the invasion of the country by the deadly Spanish "Flu."

While it will be impossible now to hold the postponed Convention this year, it is to be hoped that a date earlier in the summer will be agreed upon for next year's Convention. The general opinion seems to be in favor of a late August, or an early September, meeting. October is far too late in the year—the great majority of men have finished their vacation and have resumed their usual work by that time. The 1919 Convention should be the greatest yet, and will be if an early date is fixed—an October or December Convention might turn out to be a frost.

California is asking that the 1919 Convention be held in San Francisco, but it is hardly probable that Philadelphia will agree to this. In case of a deadlock, we might suggest a compromise. Fort Worth is between the two—and though we are above all things modest, yet the truth compels us to say that Fort Worth is a beautiful city and contains all the best features of the other two.

The Cost of Minting U. S. Cents

At the time of issue of the first Lincoln cent, Mr .Frank A. Leach, a former Director of the U. S. Mint, Washington, estimated that the cost of the metal in the coinage of one thousand dollars in cents was a little less than one-tenth of that amount, or one hundred dollars, with copper at 13½ cents per pound. The outlay for labor in the manufacture of the coin was a little over one-tenth, or one hundred dollars, leaving a profit to Uncle Sam of about eight hundred dollars on each thousand dollars coined in cents.

Since then, however, the cost of both metal and labor has greatly increased, probably one hundred per cent, if not more.

Coin Auctions and The War

If the results of our last sale held on October 29th, are any criterion of the prevailing conditions of the Numismatic Market, then we are in for one of the most successful seasons.

The sale held by B. Max Mehl on October 29th, consisting of the second portion of the Sears' stock and other consignments, comprising over fifteen hundred lots, realized approximately Eight Thousand Dollars ($8,000.00). There were more than two hundred and fifty bidders represented, and the prices realized compare most favorably with the highest records of any market at any time. And all of this occurred just in the midst of the drive for our largest Liberty Loan.

Coin collecting, according to our observation, is on the increase, both in interest and numbers of new collectors. It is being recognized more from time to time not only as an interesting and educational hobby but, if properly pursued, a profitable one as well.

Lest We Forget

Ours is a Numismatic Monthly—not a political one. We have our own views on domestic questions of party politics—so have our readers—but this is not the place to air them. While the war lasts we are the United States and we all stand behind President Wilson.

In these history-making days it is hard to keep up to date with the war's progress. What is great news today will be old news before this is in print.

Yet it is important that we remember what our gallant Allies have done before our nation entered the war. On the Western Front the Belgians, British and French fought against terrible odds, and paid the price with the blood of their noblest sons.

We have been greatly impressed by the report of a speech made recently at the convention of the Minnesota Bankers' Association in Minneapolis, by Captain Frank Edwards, of the Royal Fusiliers (British Army). We would like to quote the speech in full, but must be content with a small extract:

"In the first two years of war England by voluntary enlistment, without conscription of any kind, had brought five million men to the colors, and at the end of 1917 we had placed in the field in France—in the field—an army of six million men: Do you understand what that means to England? Six million men out of a population of forty-two millions—that is one man in seven of the whole of our population—old people, women and children.

"A man asked me the other day, 'What is your biggest army, where is the biggest British army?' I said: 'The biggest British army is under the sod. In the first few months of the war—these figures are authentic—we lost 550,000 men. We lost 78 per cent of our entire fighting land forces in the first few months of the war. In the great retreat from Mons one division went into action 12,000 strong and 2,000 came out. Out of 400 officers in one engagement, 50 returned. You talk about the Somme fight; do you know what it cost us? Twenty-five thousand officers, half a million men.'"

Belgium and France will live through all ages as the Hero Nations—we have gone to their help. Britain went also—but three years before we did.

The Coins and Tokens of Australia

If we may judge from the reports of the Numismatic Societies, this series is attracting at present the attention of American collectors as seldom before. It is well that this should be the case as this series has not received in the past the attention it deserves. This series (the copper tokens) is comprised mainly of tradesmen's tokens of penny and half-penny value. These are of different types than the Canadian tokens given in Breton's work. The emu and kangaroo, native of Australia, being prominent types. Other represented are the aborigines in their decorous (more or less) costumes, the mountains and other characteristics of the Island Continent, and the emblems of various trades. A female figure, standing or seated, blind-folded, having scales in one hand and a cornucopia in the other, is a favorite device with many of the merchants who issued these tokens. Most of them are dated between 1850 and 1865. Stainsfield, in his "Descriptive Catalogue of Australian Tradesmen's Tokens," published in 1883, gives particulars of some 325 tokens in all metals—but the great majority are copper.

A far more complete list was compiled in 1916, by Mr. S. E. Whellams, F. N. S. In this he lists 672 tokens, giving full particulars of each. Many of these tokens are rare, some extremely so, but their value has not been properly appreciated in this country as yet. A Canadian token, such as the Montreal Lachine R. R. Co. Breton 530, rarity 2½, is considered cheap at $3 when in fine condition. There are dozens of tokens in the Australian series equally as rare, or more so. Yet in the past they have gone begging for a home when offered in our auction sales.

Another Good Sale In Store for Collectors

In early December, B. Max Mehl will sell at auction the collection of a Western Gentleman. From the response we have already received from our initial announcement of this sale precludes for us a success similar to that of our sale of October 29th.

There will be about a thousand or more lots, comprising a varied assortment of numismatic material—coins and notes of interest and within reach of the young collector of moderate means and coins in the hundred to thousand-dollar class.

A magnificent Baldwin "Cowboy" $10.00.

A Russian Platinum 6 Rouble piece, proof.

A United States 1875 $3.00 Gold Piece.

A $5.00 Bill signed by Jos. Smith, founder of the Mormons.

One of the finest sets of Bechtlers, Mormons, etc.

Fine American Colonials, etc.

Fine illustrated catalogues are free to all who write for them.

The Price List of this important sale, showing the amounts realized for each lot, will be supplied for only 50c. Requests for catalogue and order for Price List should be sent direct to B. Max Mehl, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas.

The Mint Mark "F" on the Scotch Bawbee's of Charles II.

The letter "F" found below the bust on the bawbees (1677-8-9) of Charles II is the initial letter of Sir John Falconer, Master of the Scottish Mint under Charles II. He was the son-in-law and assistant of Nicholas Briot, appointed Master of the Scottish Mint in 1635.

Falconer's connection with the mint was an unusually long one, as we find his initial letter on silver coins of the third issue (1637) of Charles I.

The bawbees of Charles II are very soft copper, and it is only on fine specimens that the "F" can be seen.

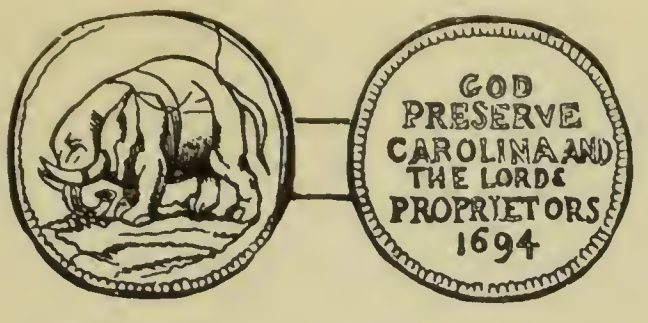
War Orders of France Given to West Point

Collection of Medals and Decorations Presented by Delegate of French Government.

Delegated by the French Government, F. Cunliffe-Owen, senior Knight of the Legion of Honor in America in respect to date of appointment, accompanied by Captain Rouvier of the French High Commission and by Major General Appleton, visited West Point yesterday to present to the Military Academy a collection of all France's Orders of Knighthood, war decorations, and war medals. The visitors were entertained at luncheon at the officers' mess by the Superintendent, Colonel Samuel E. Tillman, and the officers of his staff. The formal presentation took place immediately after a review of the cadets. In making it Mr. Cunliffe-Owen said:

"These badges are badges of heroism, and since the obstacles that formerly stood in the way of their bestowal by France upon officers and men of the American army have, so I understand, been removed, I can only express my fervent hope that all of you cadets who are likely to be sent abroad on active service before the conclusion of this great war may return home with your breast adorned with the red ribbon of the Legion of Honor and the War Cross.

"There is something sacred about these orders and medals for valor. They help the convalescence of the wounded; they comfort the last moments of the dying, and they carry consolation to those bereaved by the war, in that they constitute an imperishable memorial of the deeds of patriotic devotion, and self-sacrifice. It seems particularly appropriate that France should be commemorated at West Point by this gift to your museum of the insignia of her Orders of Chivalry. No French soldier of note ever visits the United States without coming to pay the homage of his admiration to West Point. The love of France, your oldest friend, your ally of near 150 years ago, and now your ally again, is born and bred in you, from the very moment you come into the world. Nowhere in America is France, the France of the eighteenth century, and the France of today, more profoundly loved and admired, than here in this beautiful West Point, the memories of which may be said to serve as a guiding star throughout the career of its graduates."—N. Y. Times.



The Coinage of America

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Paper Read Before the Northampton County Historical Society.

By A. J. ODENWELDER.

We will not consider the origin of money when the original trade was barter—when a South Sea Islander's wealth was estimated in cocoanuts, or in ancient Greece (1300 B. C.), when cattle was the medium of exchange. However, we will show you a few samples of early Greek or Roman coins about 500 B. C.; also some money made of porcelain and glass used in the early days. The one Roman coin in this collection is particularly interesting, as it is believed from this St. Gaudens secured his eagle for our present-day ten dollar gold piece.

The first reference made of a coinage intended for America is given us in the history of Virginia, New England and the Summer Isles by Captain John Smith, published in London, 1624. It appears the Bermudas, also known as Summer's Isles, were so named after a certain Spanish ship, the Bermudas, which was wrecked upon them. What became of the Spaniards is not known, but a quantity of black hogs, a part of the cargo, swam ashore and running wild, became very numerous. In 1609, Sir Thomas Gates with about one hundred and fifty persons on their way to Virginia were wrecked on the Bermudas and it is said existed for nine months on wild fruits and pork. In 1616 Captain John Smith appointed Daniel Tucker governor of Bermudas. This governor enforced labor and under him Smith states the colonists has "beside meat, drinks and clothes a certain kind of brasse money, with a hog on one side in memory of the abundance of them found at their first landing. Though coined in Europe for the Bermudas about 1615, the exact place and circumstances will never be found out. These coins are excessively rare, only two specimens being known.

The first coins struck in America were the Willow, Oak and Pine Tree series. They were struck over Spanish silver shillings and Mexican silver

coins. No British coins were used as it was forbidden by his Royal Highness to mutilate any coins of the British Empire. The law authorizing these coins designated a tree as a devise, the kind of tree, to be changed every three months at the option of the mint master. Thus the pine tree coinage composed of the shilling, six-pence, three-pence and pence were introduced in the colony of Massachusetts. Each series had stamped upon them a tree. The willow seemed too crude so an oak was substituted and finally the pine, which was so abundant. The state derived its nickname of the Pine Tree State from the coinage of this latter series. The coinage of the pine tree money was very large. They were issued about twenty-two years, but the date of their first issue, 1652, always remained on the coins.

John Hull and Robert Saunderson were equal officers of this primitive mint run on a percentage basis in the proportion of one to twenty. What their profits were can not be determined but when the daughter of John Hull was wedded to John Samuel Sewall in 1655, the mint masters gave the bride a dowery of her weight (146 pounds) in silver shillings. At the conclusion of the wedding a large steel-yard was brought into the room and the bride placed upon one of the platforms, while into a tub on the other side were poured the pine tree shillings until the scale balanced. John Hull died in 1683 and the operations of the mint ceased. Coins of this tree series may still be obtained but are very rare indeed and those well preserved command fancy premiums.

Closely following the pine tree coins came the Maryland shilling and six-pence authorized by Lord Baltimore. These coins were not in use very long.

Virginia issued the first half cent in 1773. The dies for these coins were made in England. A few years later the cent appeared with the same date, 1773, as on the so-called "hapenny."

Issues by Government, U. S. A.

The Colony of Pennsylvania made no provision for a local coinage but passed a number of resolutions relative to the value and usage of the other Colonial coins as well as those from England and Spain. Pennsylvania passed a most drastic law on counterfeiting in 1741. Any person convicted of counterfeiting any gold or silver coin in this province was doomed to suffer death. Any person knowingly passing counterfeit money, upon conviction, was sentenced to stand in the pillory one hour, having both ears cut off and nailed to the pillory, besides receiving twenty-one lashes in public on his or her bare back. Also a fine of one hundred pounds, one-half to go to the governor and one-half to the informer, with all costs of prosecution upon the convict. This law was repealed in 1781. With the exception of Pennsylvania all the other colonies adopted some form of hard money.

Congress in America in 1776 issued a coinage of tin, brass and a few silver pieces.

Early in 1783 preparations were made for the mint of North America. Robert Morris entrusted this work to Benjamin Dudley. The dye sinker was Jacob Eckfield. The first piece was struck by Mr. Dudley and presented to Mr. Morris on the same day, September 11, 1783. This piece was known to exist but has become lost to the numismatic world.

The most widely circulated of all the Colonial coins is the Fugis or Franklin cent. This is probably the earliest authorized coin of the United States. They are all dated 1787 and are patterned after the Continental dollars which were designed in 1776 by Bnjamin Franklin.

On the third day of March, 1791, a resolution was finally passed by the House of Representatives in Philadelphia establishing a U. S. mint. An old still-house and a tenement were purchased on Seventh street between Market and Arch and here was erected the first United States mint. Completed September 7th, 1792. On the 11th day of September six pounds of copper was purchased for the coinage of cents and half cents. We can easily see why they are so rare.

In the month of October, 1792, three presses were put in operation coining half dimes. On the obverse this coin has a female bust, emblematic of Liberty, and presumed to be the likeness of Martha Washington. On the reverse is a flying eagle beneath which is inscribed half dime. This precious little coin is said to have been struck from the private plate of Washington which is not unlikely considering the great interest he took in the infant mint and personally looking after its affairs.

The first half cents and cents were coined in 1793 from the six pounds of copper before spoken of. The breaking of dies either due to faulty work or crude presses has caused many varieties in the early coins, a complete collection of which has never been gotten together by one man. The large copper cents were coined from 1793 to 1857 except 1815. The half cents were carried from 1793 to 1857.

Next came the copper nickel cent in 1856. Many of you recall the small cent with the flying eagle. In 1859 began the copper-nickel Indian head cent. In 1864 the first Indian head cent of bronze appeared. The head on this cent is claimed to be that of the eight-year-old daughter of James B. Longacre, who was connected with the mint for many years. The letter "L" on the ribbon below the word Liberty on the forehead can easiy be seen. This coin is still claimed by many to be the handsomest cent ever issued by this government. The first Lincoln cent was struck in Philadelphia mint August 16th, 1909, and had the initials of its designer on the reverse—V. D. B., for Victor David Brunner. These cents are not rare or even scarce as more than 37,000,000 were issued before the initials were omitted.

A complete set of United States cents will be, in my estimation, by far the most valuable not having a complete set of gold—

Little can be said about the 2c pieces except that it was the first coin to bear the motto "In God We Trust." They were issued from 1864—1873 inclusive.

The silver 3c piece came next from 1851 to 1873. The nickel 3c pieces from 1865 to 1889. The 5c nickel from 1866 to date with several changes of dies.

Twenty-cent silver pieces were struck in 1875-'76-'77-'78. They resembled the quarter dollar very much and often passed for them.

The silver dollar made its appearance in 1794. None were issued from 1805 to 1839 inclusive. The motto "In God We Trust" was placed on the dollar in 1866. There were, however, several beautiful pattern dollars, designed by Messrs. Gobrcht and Morgan, struck in the years 1836, '38, '39. They were all struck from highly finished sharp dies, and highly polished planchets. Coins of this class are known as Proff Patterns, or trial prices. Most of these beautiful designs were rejected by the Monetary Commission at Washington. Proof sets of coins of each year could be purchased at the mint the latter part of January of that year at a premium of from 50 to 200 per cent.

This has all been changed by the present administration, as no more proofs can be purchased.

The Trade Dollar has an interesting history, issued from 1873-1883. This coin was intended for trade with the Orientals. Our Standard Dollar contained only 412½ grains of silver while the Spanish and Mexican dollars contained 420 grains. The yellow people would not accept our Standard Dollar on a par with the others so Congress authorized a silver dollar containing 420 grains 900 fine to be known as the Trade Dollar. By the time these coins were issued most of our trade had been lost and the coins found their way back into circulation in the U. S. A.

After several years it was suggested in Congress that instead of purchasing bar silver we melt up the Trade Dollars and use the 11½ grains for the coinage of minor coins. This bill passed and all the banks and subtreasuries were given orders to take the Trade Dollars out of circulation at once. In a few years they became scarce and people began to hoard them. Then the government ordered the banks to allow only sixty cents, thinking by this method no one would want them. Many a day's labor was given for a Trade Dollar and all of a sudden the value of this dollar dropped to sixty cents. This is the only money authorized by the Congress of the U. S. that was ever repudiated.

The most notable and valuable silver coin is the dollar of 1804. It is said the scarcity of this dollar was due to the sinking of a China bound vessel having on board th entire mintage. One story has it that nine were found in an old black box by workmen in 1833 while moving the mint. These were distributed among the officials of the mint. Other leading numismatists of this day claim there are no original 1804 dollars as all of them were restrikes from an old die found in 1833.

This question has never been settled and I believe never will be. All I can do is to show you an 1804 dollar and let it be for you to judge as to its originality.

Some of the Numismatist's Nightmares

By F. E. DUTCHER.

"Never trouble trouble, till trouble troubles you."

In one of the back numbers of thi magazine is printed an article advising young collectors as to what is best in the line of procuring coins, foreign, or those of our own "land of the free," and, after quoting from several sources in support of one, and then the other, all the young "hobby riders" are serenely advised to decide the matter themselves.

This may seem heartless to the youth, "but not so," as a Jap would remark. Experience is the best authority, as well as teacher, and a hint may help—so here goes an actual fact on paper, told me by a collector, who laughed heartily as he recalled the experience.

It seems he wanted to get together an **unusual** collection, and wrote to a dealer, asking for a list of such pieces, with their values. This letter was either badly written, or ambiguous as to just what kind of a list was expected, for to his dismay, he received the following authentic but no doubt queer and unique information, viz:

Abyssinia.

No national coinage. Large payments made in gold ingots, weighed by the Wakea ounce, 400 grains troy. The Levantine Thaler of Maria Theresa, 1780, is the legal tender, and is divided into 23 Harfs. For small change, glass beads, called "Borjookes," are used.

3 Borjookes=Kasbequis.
4 Dirvanis=Harf.
10 Kibears=Dirvani.
23 Harfs=Levantine Thaler.

Afghanistan.

5 Dinars=Kasbequis.
5 Dinar Bisti=Shatree.
2 Mahmoodis=Abassi.
80 Caveers=Moocha Piaster.
2 Kasbequis=Dinar Bisti.
2 Shatrees=Mahmoodi.
50 Abassis=Tomaun.
12 Pice=Anna.
16 Annas=Rupee.

China.

10 Sse or Sii=Hao or Chou.
10 Hao or Chou=Cash or Li.
10 Cash or Li=Candareen or Fun.
10 Candareen or Fun=Mace or Tsien.
10 Mace or Tsien=Tael or 579.84 grain troy, of Sycee (pure silver).

Morocco.

4 Muzuna=Ukiia.
2 Ukiia=Derham de Tmnia uyuh.
4 Ukiia=Derham d'arba uak.
65 Ukiia=Bendki or Buntikee.

Persia.

Same as Afghanistan, omitting caveers, mocha-piastres, pice, anna and rupee.

After reading the list carefully (which contained several other "nightmares"), my friend had only life enough remaining to order the Chinese "cash" or "li," the "Fun" and a Portuguese "Sello" or "Nuao Crusado," which likewise appeared in the list. Then he sent $10, for Collection "L," to Texas, and found what he wanted, and some to "swap" with others interested.

This story carries such a fine joke and plain moral, that I pass it on with the hope it will be printed and will be appreciated by your readers as it was by me.

"Never trouble trouble, till trouble troubles you."

A Letter from Uncle George to His Nephew John

My Dear John:

As you doubtless know, the Philadelphia Convention was forbidden by the proper authorities, so the High Moguls had to call it off until next year. The colored gentleman is still in the woodpile securely hidden from all curious eyes. And before the time comes around again to fix the date for next year's Convention, I sincerely trust it will be found possible to make it a month or six weeks earlier than the date decided for this year. August is the best month, at least it is for myself and all the collectors I have spoken to on the subject, favor an early meeting. I know, John, just as well as you can tell me, that it is not for your Uncle George to fix the date for the Convention. I am not the Board. I am not even the Chairman of the Board. I am only a common "fellow." Mind you, I am not struck on the term "fellow." It may be all right, but it smacks of the .'my man" kind of talk—but perhaps it was well meant.

Now that November is with us once more, things numismatic are starting to hum. What with the Liberty Loan and the auction sales, a man can use up a whole lot of money and my bank account is down to near the zero point. Some might say that a man with only my salary has no right to collect coins, but that shows what they know about it. I take more pleasure out of my coins than I do in any other recreation. A man has a right to some pleasure in this life, and I find a great amount of it in my collection and making additions to it from time to time.

I mean, however, to study coins this winter more than usual. This may make up for not being able to buy as many coins as I may wish to do. Have you ever noticed that a great majority of the standard works on Numismatics are rather dry reading? Why cannot the learned writers throw a little imagination and less dry facts into their papers, and so make the subject more interesting and readable?

They might learn a thing or two from the professional advertisement writers. Take the "Fellow" who sings the praise of the world-famous "Crape" tobacco, or the gifted genius who tells us of the merits of the "Baby Elephant" brand. These advertisements are masterpieces of fiction. I have gone some years now without smoking, but after reading about the value of these two brands, I purchased a tin of one, and a bag of the other and started smoking again, but believe me, the advertisements are the best things about these brands. Why cannot numismatic writers adopt this plan—write in more interesting and convincing ways? Their works would be more readable, especially to the non-collector. But whoever heard of a man starting to collect because he had read something that interested him in any particular series? There is legitimate romance and charm to be found in coins—far more than in tobacco—why should not this new way be given a trial? The trouble is, our editors and publishers have tied their hands with traditions of the past.

I heard from Jim the other day ;of course you know he's been in France for some months. Well, he's started medal collecting—he has an English one, and a Belgian—and has been recommended for the French Cross. I'm proud that a boy of mine is doing his "bit" for our country. I hope our boys

will never forget the Hun outrages on our Red Cross hospitals—and the women of Northern France and Belgium.

I had a letter recently from a collector asking me if I could help him complete a series he was interested in. He is only interested in one series, and writes: "I only need these sixteen tokens—and I will get them, too." Poor "Fellow," I only trust for his own sake that he will never get the whole sixteen. What would life be worth to him if he had nothing to collect? His every want supplied! Of course, he might start on another series—but it's by far the best to have more than one iron in the fire.

I received this morning, a catalogue of coins offered at fixed prices. I do not care for this class of catalogue. The coins offered are of two classes—those very cheap, the others very dear. Whenever in the past I have sent for some, the answer has come back: "I regret to say the coins you order have been sold." Why should he "regret" it? Was it because he offered them too cheap—or can it be possible that he never had the coins to offer at such low prices?

I may put in some time this winter in writing up some particular series of our own or Canadian coins. There are several series left yet for the earnest student to macgirtulate, and I know no reason why I should not rush in where angels fear to tread.

UNCLE GEORGE.

China to Issue Gold Notes

With a view to facilitating foreign trade, the Peking Government has recently promulgated by a presidential mandate the gold note regulations and the convertible note regulations, to be put in force on the day of their issue. According to these regulations, China has authorized certain banks, to be named by the Government, to issue gold notes.

Until gold coin is ready, the note will be used only for domestic circulation and for drawing a bill of exchange, and the note will not be convertible until then. Gold equivalent to the amount of the note issued will be reserved and the standing amount will be announced every ten days.

The organization of the Currency Bureau consists of nine articles. It belongs to the direct control of the Premier, and supervises the currency system covering the whole country. It will have one controller, one president, and one adviser. The office of controller will be assumed by the Minister of Finance, while the adviser will be hired from abroad. The Currency Bureau will be organized on a ten-year basis, and the chiefs of the Chinese Government Mint, Printing Office, and the Supervisors of Banks will be placed in control.

The Long Green

Six billion dollars, the amount of the last Liberty Loan, is a lot of money, but how much few people can realize. This sum converted into one-dollar bills and laid end to end would make a strip of greenbacks 699,000 miles long, or enough to belt the earth at the equator twenty-eight times.

Truly, some money!—Wall Street Journal.

Spence---And His "Plan"

A correspondent asks for information respecting a token he has. It is a plain flan, counterstamped—SPENCES PLAN—YOU FOOLS in two lines, and on the reverse—OR - STARVATION - FOR EVER, in three lines. He asks: "Who was Spence, and what was his 'plan'?"

Thomas Spence was born on June 21, 1750, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. His father was a net maker and shoemaker, a native of Aberdeen, who went to Newcastle about 1739. He was one of nineteen children, his father being twice married.

Thomas Spence began his business life as a clerk. Subsequently he became a schoolmaster. He belonged to a sect called "Glassites," which held the view that all their goods were common property and liable to the calls of the poor of their church.

When twenty-five years of age (1775), he published a lecture he had delivered before the Newcastle Philosophical Society on "The Real Rights of Man." In this he practically anticipated the views expressed by Henry George in his "Progress and Poverty."

Spence's plan was that the inhabitants of each parish should form a corporation in which the land of that parish should be vested forever, that the parish officers should collect the rents from the occupiers, deduct the state and local expenses, and divide the surplus among the parishioners. On account of the views expressed in the lecture, the Philosophical Society promptly expelled Spence, who, however, refused to be suppressed. He went to London in 1783, and set up up as bookseller and printer at No. 8 Little Turnstile, High Holborn, early in 1794.

In connection with his plan for land reform, he struck the following medal or ticket as a form of propaganda for land reform.

Obv.—SPENCE'S GLORIOUS PLAN + IS PAROCHIAL PARTNERSHIP IN LAND WITHOUT PRIVATE LANDLORDISM. Centre within a radiated circle: SPENCE'S PLAN NOV. 8. 1775.

Rev.—Hand holding an olive branch, below it a pair of scales and a cornucopia. THIS JUST PLAN WILL PRODUCE EVERLASTING PEACE AND HAPPINESS OR IN FACT THE MILLENIUM. (Sic.)

There are over two hundred varieties listed in Atkins' "The Tradesmen's Tokens of the Eighteenth Century," that are credited to Spence—all having reference to the political questions of that time, and the views held by Spence concerning them.

On the 29th of May, 1794, he was arrested on a suspicion of high treason, and taken to Newcastle Prison, where he remained without a trial, being discharged December 22nd, 1794. The imprisonment is commemorated on several of his tokens.

He likewise counterstamped regal copper currency and plain flans with various quotations respecting his land reform plan. These he is said to have jerked from his shop window to passersby, and it is probably one of these that our correspondent has.

This ingenious and honest enthusiast died in Castle street, Oxford street, London, on September 8, 1814, aged 64 years, and his funeral was attended

by many of his disciples. Tokens expressing the views he held, and medals were distributed, and a pair of scales was carried before his coffin to indicate the justice of his views.

For additional information concerning Spence, his tokens and his political platform, our correspondent is referred to the work, "Spence and His Political Works," written and published (1917) by Mr. Arthur W. Waters.

Worse Than the Shinplaster of Civil War Fame

A curious condition of affairs with respect to money prevails in the department of Narino, the southernmost department of Colombia. This region is isolated by poor means of communication from the central government and has regulated its own affairs to a great extent. When the rest of the country adopted a gold standard Narino refused to conform and enforced a local silver standard. As it accepts at silver value coins of all nations and dates it has become a dumping-ground for coins no longer current elsewhere.

It is said that the most abundant coins are the old eight-real pieces of the early days of independence. A few years ago, we may add, the whole of Colombia was swamped with paper currency enormously depreciated. At one time it took 22,500 pesos of this paper to buy a United States gold dollar. The government has now issued a decree recalling the national silver coined before 1911 and all foreign money now in circulation.

Rochester Numismatic Association

Oct. 1st 1918.

One hundred and fifty-fifth meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association called to order by President H. H. Yawger.

Members present: Messrs. Yawger, W. H. Amberg, Gillette, Hicks, L. G. Amberg, Borradaile, Koeb, Plumb, Maunovry, Loizeau, Haring, Woolsey and Burling.

Communications received: Letter from Mr. Carl Wurtzbach, President of the A. N. A., thanking the members for their kind interest in his recent bereavement.

Moved by W. H. Amberg that the Association purchase a $50.00 bond of the Fourth Liberty Loan, thereby making our fourth subscription, one for each loan.

Mr. Koeb of the Memorial Medal Committee reported progress, and expects to have several designs submitted at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned to October 15th, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Sec'y.

Everybody Can Help

Every man, woman and child in America can help win the war. Every man, woman and child who buys a Liberty Bond or a War Savings Stamp does something toward winning the war, enlists in one division of national service, supporting the government, and backing up our fighting men in France and on the seas.

Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Association

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Association was held on Tuesday evening, September 3rd, at the home of President G. F. E. Wilharm. Members present, Messrs. Marlier, Gibbs, Kraft, Shinkle, Gies, Boyle. A special welcome was given to Mr. Shinkle, who had not been out for quite a long time.

A most enjoyable meeting was held, after which the beautiful collection of Dr. Wilharm was shown. The exhibit consisted of United States cents, as well as silver and gold, also foreign gold and silver coins. The exhibit was adjourned about 11 o'clock, at which time a lunch was served. A standing vote of thanks was given to Dr. Wilharm for the pleasant evening.

A. C. GIES, Sec'y.

✣ ✣

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Association was held on Tuesday evening, October 1st, in their rooms at the Carnegie Institute, with Dr. Wilharm in the chair. Members present, Dr. Wilharm, Messrs. Marlier, Boyle, Gibbs, Gies. Mr. H. E. Hubbard was present as a visitor. An invitation was extended to the Association by Mr. Gibbs to hold the November meeting at his home and view his collection of foreign coins. Invitation was accepted. Exhibitions were as follows:

Mr. Marlier: Four large bronze medals, large medal Ferdinand II, Sicily two medals, Paul V with different reverses, and one of Piux IX.

Mr. Gibbs: Sixty different counterstamped and cut coins of the West Indies Islands and nine countestamped crowns, including very rare half bit St. Eustatius, St. Lucia, St. Martins, Inagua, Trinidad, etc.

Mr. Boyle: Uncirculated U. S. Cents, 2 varieties, 1787, 1798, 1805, 1806, 1807, '27, '29, '38, '39 head of '40, 1840 large date.

Dr. Wilharm: Twenty-five different Colonials, 23 English Half Penny Tokens, 5 Farthings.

Mr. Gies: Two varieties 1796 Liberty Cap cents, 1796 Ellet Head and 1797 cent.

Meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock to meet the following month at the home of Mr. Gibbs.

A. C. GIES, Sec'y.

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

The 40th meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society was held Tuesday, Sept. 24th, at the office of its Secretary.

In the absence of the President the meeting was called to order by Mr. B. Brandon.

Members present: Messrs. Haigh, Haagensen, Hill, Landecker, Mohr, Thomas, Beardslee, Webb, Brandon, Gill, Mohr, Zerbe and Steinman.

Upon motion of Mr. Steinman it was unanimously carried that the Committee on Election be instructed to hand in its recommendation concerning the increasing of dues, also its suggestion in regards to members who have joined the colors.

The Secretary stated that Mr. Lloyd E. Sherow, one of the P. C. N. S.'s most enthusiastic members, had informed him "that he had enlisted."

The Chair appointed Messrs. Gill, Zerbe and Thomas to act as the Committee on Election and to hand in their report at the next meeting.

Mr. Steinman presented the application of Mr. M. E. Duncan for active membership in the Society; Mr. Duncan was unanimously elected.

Further business was dispensed with in order to hear a talk from Mr. Farran Zerbe on "Prison Money Used by the Prisoners of War in the Camps of the Warring Nations of Europe," supplemented by a collection of these coins which Mr. Zerbe had collected.

Upon motion of Mr. Beardslee, it was unanimously carried, that Mr. Zerbe be tendered the thanks of the Society for this unusual treat.

The meeting then adjourned until Tuesday, Oct. 29th.

I. LELAND STEINMAN, Sec.-Treas.

Chicago Numismatic Association

The October meeting of Branch One, A. N. A., was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Friday, October 11, at 8 o'clock. The following were present: Dr. Luttenberger, Messrs. Boyer, Leon, Olson, Kelly, Hinckley, Lawless, Wilson, DeCou and Davis, and Miss Naerup.

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly. Mr. Leon gave an account of the attempt to hold a convention in Philadelphia. A telegram and letter from the San Francisco Coin Club were read asking that the A. N. A. convention of next year be held at San Francisco. These called out considerable discussion, but the Club took no definite action on the question.

Messrs. Hinckley, Olson and DeCou went through the final ceremonies and became members in good standing.

The following were the exhibits:

By Mr. Lawless: Sous struck for the French Colonies in 1721 and 1767 in unusually fine condition.

By Mr. Idson: The rare five kopeck piece of Catherine II, struck in Sweden.

By Mr. Davis: Uncirculated Virginia Half Penny, Rosa Americana Penny and Half Penny of 1722, and Penny and Two Pence of 1723, and the undated Two Penny piece with the uncrowned rose.

By Mr. Wilson: Two Kopeck piece of 1787, Five Kopecks of 1812, and a small bronze medal of the French Marshal Drout Derlon.

By Mr. Hinckley: Dollar upon which was engraved the statement that it was taken from J. C. Davis, April 16, 1865, and two beautifully enameled crowns of George IV and Victoria.

By Mr. Leon: Proof 1856 flying eagle cent, first issue of Chinese fractional notes, printed in China from plates made by a Chinese engraver. These were 10, 20 and 50 cent notes and were numbered 5, 1 and 1, respectively, of the series. Set of notes printed in Germany for Russian prison camps of 1, 2, 3, 5 and 50 Kopeck denominations. Essays of $100 interest bearing treasury note and of $1 and $2 notes of types never issued for circulation. 10 peso note of the Province of Buenos Ayres, dated 1869. Sets of notes of the National Bank of Haiti, and of the Spanish Bank of Havana. Several sheets of notes

from State banks in various Wisconsin towns, among which were LaCrosse, Sheboygan, Oconomowoc and Milwaukee, also from Stonington. Conn., and Richmond, Va. A curious misstruct freak quarter, struck on a nickel planchet.

After some numismatic discussion and a social time the meeting was adjourned.

R. E. DAVIS, Sec'y.

Prices Realized at the Sale Held by B. Max Mehl Oct. 29th

Ancient. Egypt. Prolmeny and Bernice II. Decadrachm	$ 55.00
Rome. Julius Caesar and Octavius. Aureus	34.25
Claudius, Aureus	30.00
Egypt. Ptolmeny II. Pententagrachm	61.00
Rome. Alexander the Great. Stater	20.50
Annam. Gold Medal	33.25
Georgia $2.50 Gold, 64 G. 22 CARATS. Very fine	72.25
$2.50 CAROLINA GOLD, 67 G. 21 CARATS. Very good	51.00
$2.50 CAROLINA GOLD, 70 G. and 20 CARATS. Very fine	83.00
$5.00 CAROLINA GOLD. 128 G. 22 CARATS	85.00
Colorado. Clark & Co., 1860, $2.50 Gold	22.50
1860 $5.00. Ex. Fine	29.75
1860 $10.00. View of Pikes Peak. Fine	45.00
1861 $20.00. Fine	290.00
California. 1852. $10.00	95.00
1849 Moffat & Co. $16.00. Ex. fine	300.00
1853 $20.00. Very fine	48.00
Norris, Grieg & Norris. 1849 $5.00	35.00
Baldwin & Co. $5.00, 1850	120.00
1851 $50.00. Very fine. 887 THOUS	280.00
1851 $50.00. 880 THOUS	120.00
1852 $50.00. 900 THOUS	165.00
1855 $50.00. Round. 900 THOUS	325.00
Mormon, 1849 $2.50. Very good	42.50
Oregon, 1849 $5.00. Very good	98.50
Silver Dollars. 1797. Ex. gne	7.00
1836 C. Gobrecht. Ex. fine	15.00
Half Dollars. 1796 Fifteen stars. V. good	47.25
1797 Very good	17.50
Dime, 1804 Very good	12.75
Nickel Three-Cent, 1877 Proof	3.25
Large Cent. 1799 V. fair	9.25
1856 Flying Eagle Cent. Proof	10.50
(1792) Washington Cent	10.00
1801 $10.00 Gold	19.50
1900 Bryan Dollar	4.05
1859 $20.00 Pattern. Copper. A.-W. 276	20.00
1874 $10.00 Pattern. Copper proof. A.-W. 1367	10.00
1870 Pattern Dollar. Silver, plain edge. A.-W. 684	42.00
1871 Pattern Dollar. Silver. A-W. 1110	26.00
1872 Commercial Dollar. A-W. 1248. Silver	15.00
1870 Pattern Half Dollar. A.-W. 883. Silver	21.00
1870 Pattern Half Dollar. A.-W. 889. Silver	21.00
1870 Pattern Half Dollar. A.-W. 890. Silver	15.00
Indian Princess. A.-W. 1133	15.00
1875 Pattern 20c. A.-W. 1435	13.25
1875 Pattern 20c. A.-W. 1446. Silver proof	17.25
1875 Pattern 20c. A.-W. 1446. Silver proof	16.40
1875 Pattern 20c. A.-W. 1453. Silver	17.65

There were in all over fifteen hundred lots, realizing a total of Eight Thousand Dollars. The Price List showing amounts realized by each lot may be had for only fifty cents, from B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States, 50 cents a year; Canada and Foreign $1.00

Vol. IX. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1918 No. 12

With The Editor

The Passing of 1918

We said last month, that this was a Numismatic Monthly, not a political one. But so much has happened, so much history has been made during the past few weeks, that it is not out of place to make a passing reference to events that will forever live in the history of the world.

Empires have broken up. The Hapsburg and Hohenzollern dynasties are things of the past and we place them on the shelf with the discarded Romanoffs. While we as numismatists will miss them, few of us will drop a tear.

New republics are coming into existence, the map of Europe is being changed. The old order is given away to the new—where will it end? This year will see the end of several series of coins, the coming year will see several fresh series issued. The single and double headed eagles of Austria, Germany and Russia have lost their heads and are things of the past as far as the coinage of these three lands are concerned. What will take their place?

The Peace Congress will have to deal with several questions, and not the least interesting will be the future of the minor States of Europe. The little people will have a chance to live and grow. The world is saved for democracy. Long live the People!

New One Cent For Canada

From Ottawa comes the news that the Minister of Finance is considering the design for a new copper coin. It will be slightly larger and thicker than a ten-cent piece, so as to be readily distinguishable to the touch. The present Canadian cent is, we consider, larger than it need be, and when we have made this remark to Canadian friends, they have said the same of our nickel. Why either of these two coins should be as large as they are is beyond us, the size might well be reduced.

It would seem from the Ottawa dispatch that a change is to be made in the type. The deeds of the Canadian troops in the world war might well be commemorated. But this we must leave to their own taste.

The Number of Coin Collectors On The Increase

One of the results of the war will be a large increase in the number of collectors on this continent. The great majority of our boys who have crossed over to Europe will bring with them on their return some coins in use in the different countries they have visited. These coins will be kept as souvenirs. The boys will not all become collectors, as we understand the term—but all will have made a start, and in coin collecting it is the start that counts. Once a good start is made the rest is easy. In future years we expect to hear many collectors say that they started collecting during the great war when they were in Belgium, France, England, Italy or Russia. Coins once acquired in this way will be kept, and form the nucleus of many large collections of the future.

American Souvenir Coins

In a paper prepared by Mr. F. G. Duffield, the able editor of "The Numismatist," to have been read before the Philadelphia Convention of the A. N. A., he asks whether it would not popularize future souvenir coins to issue them under different conditions.

It certainly would. The present system is out of date and unjust to all coin dealers handling these coins. The general public have the impression that the difference between the face value of these "coins" and the prices they are sold at, goes into the dealers' pockets. **It does not.** It is one of the conditions surrounding the issue.

Mr. Duffield states: "The object in issuing souvenir coins * * * is to create a revenue, and to this no serious objection can be urged." But they are issued also for another reason—to commemorate events in our nation's history, and too great attention should not be given to the question of mere revenue. After all, the revenue derived from the sale of these issues is but small. A larger issue at a lower price would produce more revenue. Let these issues serve an edueational purpose.

The Coming Year---For Numismatics

The coming year, 1919, should be a good year for numismatics in this country. There is but little doubt that many Old World collections will be placed upon the market, and as the wealth of the United States is greater now than it has ever been before, some of them will be sent to this country for sale. Collections of coins seek the best markets. The restrictions and embargo on coins will doubtless be removed in the near future and the numismatic wheels whirl merrily around once more.

Who Wants An Iron Cross

A dispatch from Amsterdam to New York states that Iron Crosses, bestowed by the ex-Kaiser in such large quantities during the war, are now being sold in Germany for five pfennigs (one cent) each. But whatever gives them this value?

Late Copies

Excuses are so much more easily made than their causes removed that we are at times prone to permit the causes to happen and then make the excuses. Then the poor old war has been blamed for so many things that we are loathe to unload on it the blame for the tritle late appearance of this issue of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY. But there are so many circumstances over which we have no control that go into the publishing of a magazine that it is almost humanly impossible to follow a set program or schedule. So we beg the indulgence of our readers for the slightly tardy appearance of this and the few previous issues. We feel confident that the generous and liberal support which the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY has been enjoying now these past ten years, will be merited in more ways than one in issues and service to be rendered in the coming volume.

Through the November issue of the Numismatist, we learn of the great sorrow that has befallen its editor and manager, Mr. Frank G. Duffield. During the recent epidemic of influenza, Mr. Duffield lost a daughter and her husband.

The NUMISMATIC MONTHLY extends its deepest sympathy to Mr. Duffield and his loved ones.

Our Tenth Anniversary

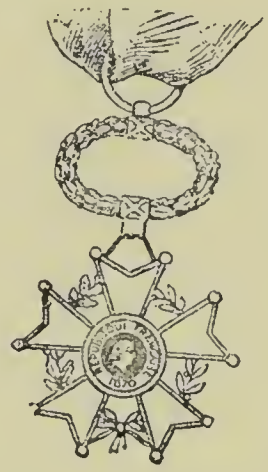
Beginning with the 1919 volume, the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY enters its tenth successful year. Ten years is probably not a very long period of time in the ordinary course of events, but in reviewing the numerous past attempts of other numismatic publications, we find so many of them who have fallen by the wayside after an attempt of but a few issues and seldom beyond a year or two of publication, that we feel it rather an achievement of considerable worth-while to have been able to conduct so successful a numismatic publication for a period of ten years with prospects for its future success brighter than ever.

On one of the cover pages in this issue we publish a brief outline of the contents of the 1918 issues. We respectfully submit this for the consideration of our friends whose support we respectfully invite, and this can be no better accomplished than by your sending in a subscription of one of your friends who may become interested in numismatics.

The subscription price of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY still remains at only fifty cents per year in the United States; $1.00 per year in Canada and foreign countries.

No one realizes more than we do that the success of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY is due mainly to the liberal support accorded it by the numismatic public. We appreciate this deeply and want to take this opportunity of extending our thanks and sincere good wishes to all of our friends for a Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year.

The Cross of Legion of Honor



Honor is the fairest tree in the woods, says an old proverb, which is almost forgotten, and not much current at the present age, when money plays such a large part in all affairs of life. We have become accustomed to appraising everything worth so much in dollars and cents. But all human deeds can not be rewarded with certain sums of cold cash, and most nations have instituted orders, and bestow tokens of recognition on their best citizens, be it the scientist, solving a problem for the benefit of mankind, the courageous soldier in the field, or the humble man in the walks of everyday life displaying unusual courage at critical moments. Among the ancient Greeks and Romans this outward token for distinguished conduct was very often but a wreath of laurel; during the middle age the knighthoods flourished; at the present time the outward tokens for distinguished service are "crosses" and medals.

The oldest cross of distinction in use at the present day is the Legion of Honor, instituted by Napoleon in 1802. In 1791 the French National Assembly resolved to eliminate all orders and decorations on the ground that only members of the nobility were ever decorated. But the Assembly reserved the right to create a new order, the token of which might be awarded to anyone serving France with distinction.

As First Consul of France it was Napoleon who in 1802 instituted the Order of the Legion of Honor, referring to the halfway given promise by the Assembly in 1791. He advocated that the new order should be for the duke and the drummer boy alike. This suggestion was received with enthusiasm, and before long the new decoration of the Legion of Honor was seen on all the battlefields of Europe. Napoleon had a keen eye for the practical side of things. The new token of distinction was eagerly sought by his soldiers; they would endure any hardship and commit courageous deeds for the sake of winning it. The history of the Legion of Honor contains many stirring examples of this.

During the disastrous retreat from Russia in 1812, a French army corps, weary and starving, was trying to effect a crossing of the river Svolna, when suddenly surrounded and attacked by the Russians. In the midst of the battle Napoleon called to one of his aids to bring eighteen crosses of the Legion of Honor. And while the cannons thundered and the battle raged, he had General Marbat decorate eighteen of the bravest soldiers. And cheering, and stirred to greater exertions, his weary soldiers fought bravely on.

It was in keeping with Napoleon's democratic views that he should favor the non-commissioned officers and privates being decorated with the new token of valor whenever deserved. He knew that the cross made the participants proud and happy, and that it stirred these as well as the rest of his soldiers to greater deeds.

His soldiers on the other hand were not afraid to remind the "Little Corporal" if he seemingly forgot them with a decoration. An amusing incident is related from Regensburg, where Napoleon was inspecting some troops, and conferring some crosses of the Legion of Honor for bravery, when an old grenadier stepped out from the ranks and demanded a cross of Napoleon.

"What have you done to deserve it?" asked Napoleon.

"Sire," replied the old fighter, "it was I who gave you a watermelon when you were nearly dead from thirst in the desert of Jaffa."

"I thank you again for the favor, but the fact alone that you brought me the fruit is not enough to warrant decorating you."

But this was too much for the old warrior .

"Then, perhaps, it counts for naught that I was wounded fourteen times at Arcole, at Lodi, at Castogloine, the Pyramids, St. Jean d'Arce, Austerlitz, Friedland—that I have followed you through eleven campaigns, in Italy, in Austria, in Egypt, in Prussia, in Poland, in——"

"Tratratera!" interrupted the Emperor laughingly. "How you rattle on when you get started. But you are telling the best part last. This is far better than the watermelon. I confer on you the Knighthood of France with a yearly allowance of 1,200 francs. Does that satisfy you?"

"I would rather have the cross."

"But you get both, when knighted."

A knight! What did he care about that? It was the soldier's token of bravery he desired, and it took some hard explanation to make the old fighter understand.

Many similar stories might be cited, showing Napoleon's democratic views and his understanding of the common people. He knew that the soldier would show bravery, commit courageous deeds, and risk his life at war, not for money, but for honor, "the fairest tree in the woods."

Not many women have been decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor, and where such distinction has been conferred on French women, the majority of such cases are of a comparatively late date. Though Napoleon was quite democratic, and in spite of the fact that the French people are said to be the most chivalrous in the world, the fact seems to have been overlooked that women might render valuable service to the state or mankind in general.

The widow Brulon is said to have been the first woman to have been decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor. Her husband, Corporal Brulon, had been killed, and his widow presented herself to his captain, saying, "My husband has been killed. Here I am to take his place."

She was mustered in as a soldier, wore uniform, and rose to the rank of second lieutenant. As a sergeant, at the siege of Calvi, she was severely

wounded. She served with great distinction, and at one time saved the life of a captain. But not until 1851, at the age of 79, was she decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor.

During the late war, which at this writing happily seems to have been brought to an end, the decoration of the Legion of Honor has been but sparingly distributed, not because there has been any stint in awarding meritorious decorations for valor, but rather because the newly instituted "Croix de Guerre" and other tokens of merit have taken its place for services rendered France and humanity during the war.

M. SORENSEN.

France Now Pays For Medals to Her Heroes

Paris.—Although the cost of living continues to soar, the high cost of being a hero has taken a slump.

Premier Clemenceau has issued an order that the state henceforth will bear the cost of the medals conferred upon heroes and refund to soldiers money paid since the beginning of the war for their medals.

Originally soldiers were charged about $2.00 for their medals; then in November, 1917, the price was raised slightly, owing to the increased cost of ribbon. Last January the price was boosted again to about $2.50.

Medal Commemorating the Entry (?) Into Paris

One of our readers sends us an illustration of a medal which forms an impressive commentary on the folly of excessive optimism. It illustrates also the tendency of the human mind to translate its desires into beliefs and regard as accomplished facts the things that are yet "on the laps of the gods."

The medal was struck in 1914 to celebrate the expected triumphal march into Paris of the German armies. On one side is shown the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe de l'Etoile with the dates 1871-1914. On the reverse side is an Iron Cross with the imperial German crown and the initial of the Emperor William.

The maps were found on the German prisoner who, too impatient to wait till the end of the war, had already given to the towns the German names which he fondly hoped they would bear in the future.

Life, however, is not to be regarded as a geometrical theorem to be rigidly demonstrated, and the best laid plans "aft gang agley."

"Judea Capta" Reversed

A medal has just been issued for presentation to each Jewish recruit in Palestine. It is an ancient Roman medal reversed. The Romans, after conquering the Jews, struck a medal showing Palestine as a woman in chains about to be pierced by the sword of a Roman soldier. On the new medal the symbolism is reversed. The woman's chains are broken and the soldier is running away. The inscription "Judea Delivered" reverses the meaning of the inscription on the Roman medal.

NUMISMATIC RANDOM REELS

By DELMONT L. ANGELL

COIN COLLECTING A CHARACTER BUILDER.

Several years ago, an employee in the home office of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company informed me that his twelve-year-old son had expressed a desire to have a few old coins for Christmas, rather than any of the games, mechanical toys, books, etc., so dear to the heart of the average youth. He stated that the boy had made the request so seriously that he wanted me to procure them for him. The circumstance being unusual and coming before Christmas, I had an out-of-the-ordinary feeling that I wanted to see this boy—and did. I found him not unlike the average American lad who had the advantage of good parents and proper training, except that he was prone to discuss matters far beyond his years and manifested a marked liking for the companionship of his elders. I had quite dismissed the incident from my mind, when, at the expiration of a yearly cycle, I received a similar request from the boy's father. He said his son had added a few pieces to his collection during the elapsed period and had again expressed his wish for coins for Christmas. I felt that here was a lad who knew what he wanted and wanted nothing else. For, had he been given some other Yuletide gift, he would have received it in a good spirit, but would have wanted the coins just the same. The father said it was the same with books, that no matter what suggestions were made in the matter of choice, the boy had previously conceived conceptions as to subjects that he wanted to read. I know at the time I quite agreed with the boy, for I firmly believe that a boy who exercises his own choice in the question of reading will derive personal benefit and profit from that reading, and, contrariwise, that which is forced on youth to read, will be of little or no permanent benefit to them in after years. So I advised the father to give the boy his head, and if he showed any further interest in any love of collecting, and particularly coins, to go along with his line of reasoning. He did so and for several years the practice of increasing his collection at Christmas time was followed with the result that as the collection was augmented each year, so was the boy's knowledge of the world's geography, the history of dynasties from the crumbling of the Roman Empire and through the Byzantine period; the days of reconstruction, the wars and changes among the tribes and races of what is now Middle Europe, and so on down to the present gigantic changes now about to be made in the maps of the Old World. The study of Old World conditions gave birth to the desire to see at first hand something of Europe, so it did not need the example of an older brother to key him up to the point of enlistment in the ranks of the United States Army for service in France. I have kept in touch with his father and have read the letters that marked his progress from training camp to overseas duty and the fine record he has made for himself. Recently among a few souvenirs sent home from the battle front were 5 and 10 pfennigs of Germany struck or cast from iron, which he wanted placed with his collection of coins. He said they did not amount to much to look at, but the manner of their attainment was worth remembrance and relating. I am as anxious to hear the circumstances as are the parents, and believe

the story will prove far more interesting than this paragraph, which serves at best only to describe character-development of the finest type, and in a small way aided and encouraged by a boy's love of coin collecting! Small wonder at the marvelous record of our boys in France when such examples as this boy are doing the work!

✤ ✤ ✤

A while back I was invited to view what purported to be a "wonderful" collection of coins. Having seen many "wonderful" collections in past years through the representations of friends I had the usual skeptical misgivings. But on the appointed evening I buckled up my overcoat and courage and repaired to the residence which housed this so-called great collection. On the walls of a room which served as the living room were hung two frames, each containing groups of coins emblematic of a United States flag and shield. The coins in themselves were nothing that would have merited any marked attention from a collector. But the manner of their assembling was quite another thing. A border of small coins of uniform size served to outline the flag, and nickels of the early type were placed to represent the stars. The bars were formed of large foreign copper pieces of an equal size and were placed in wavy formation. The shield was arranged in much the same manner, but with silver coins. I was obliged to repress a smile when the gentleman's better half informed me that she was in constant fear of burglars so long as this bunch of money was so temptingly arranged. I quite agreed with her, for the whole were put together with such exact nicety that they did look far more valuable than was really so. In fact, they were works of art in respect to minute detail, and while this sort of thing is taboo among scientific and advanced collectors, the thought occurred to me that we all have the privilege of arranging our coins as suits us best, and I don't know but this is much better than hiding them from the sight of everyone—and don't think this isn't done to a greater extent than is generally known.

✤ ✤ ✤

I am quite in accord with the views of Mehl's Numismatic Monthly, expressed editorially, and others, that the unfortunate choosing of the time for holding of the annual A. N. A. Convention was an unhappy change. Had the Convention been held during the usual summer vacation season it would not have resulted in the fiasco it did. Of course, no one could foresee the epidemic which raged with such severity in Philadelphia, but I am convinced that a smaller attendance would have been attracted at the time set than at an earlier date, when many of the membership are less engrossed in their respective businesses. However, this is a matter for the Board of Governors and must have had some good features to commend it.

Canada Goes Over The Top

Canada has gone over the top in her great Victory Loan Campaign. The subscriptions totaled $676,057,950. Of this Toronto contributed $144,946,100, and Montreal came a close second with $143,433,050. Well done, Canada, we had no idea there was any such amount of money in the Dominion.

Substitutes For Legal Money Mark Last Days Of German Empire

Alfred G. Anderson, an American writer who smuggled in and out of Germany a few days before the fall of the Empire, contributes the following to the general press:

Germany is flooded with freak war coins and currency. Throughout my sojourn in Berlin I did not once see a piece of gold, silver or copper. The government had withdrawn all real money from circulation.

On my arrival in Berlin the cashier at the Kaiser Hotel exchanged some of my neutral money. The German bills he gave me were all of the so-called "darlchenskassen" variety, notes issued by the semi-official war loan bank.

On my first walk in Berlin I entered a cigar store on Friedrichstrasse and bought a package of cigarettes. The price was one mark.

I gave the girl a five-franc note. The change included two one-mark "darlchenskassenschiene," some oddly-shaped zinc coins and a handful of neatly-printed slips of various sizes and colors—red, blue, green, yellow and plain white.

Like Premium Coupons.

"Are these premium coupons?" I asked.

The girl giggled.

"No," she said, "they are kriegsersatzgeld" (war substitute money).

The bills were in denominations from one to fifty pfennigs. The lowest equaled a quarter of a cent in American money.

When I showed the bills to the cashier at the hotel he shook his head.

"That girl spotted you," he said. "She knew you were an auslaender. These bills are no good in Berlin."

He explained that every municipality in the Empire except Berlin had issued local war currency in low denominations to supplant small change. But these notes, he said, are only valid within the issuing municipality.

One Valued as Curiosity.

"But wait," he exclaimed, as he examined my pile of worthless tags. "The girl fooled herself after all."

He extracted a gray 50-pfennig note from the stack.

"This bill has been verboten by the imperial government. It is very rare. I'll give you 5 marks for it."

That was ten times its face value. But the offer did not tempt me. I decided to keep it as a souvenir. The bill had been issued by the city of Niederlahnstein. The cashier explained why it had been suppressed.

The reverse side of the note was made up of small circles, each bearing the inscription "Stadt Niederlahnstein, 1917." In the center were depicted a ham and some turnips.

The inscription in the circles above these commodities differed from the rest. That above the ham said "Tender longings, sweet hopes," while the ring above the turnips contained the frank admission, "This is how we live in 1917." It required a magnifying glass to detect the verboten prank.

I obtained a 10-pfennig note from Bielefeld, Bavaria, which conveyed the interesting information that this municipality had consumed 300,000 pounds of turnips during the winter of 1916-1917. It also bore a picture of a turnip and the motto, "Durchhalten is not ist kriegsgebot" (Endurance in suffering is a mandate of war).

The New York Numismatic Club

The regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held at Keen's Chop House, New York, Friday, November 8th, with the President, Dr. D. W. Valentine, presiding

The following members were present: Messrs. Boyd, Blake, Belden, Butler, Burke, Davidson, Frey, Heaton, Proskey, Riley, Swanson, Smith, Salters, Valentine, Wood, Wyman and Wormser. Mrs. Moritz Wormser was a guest.

Our Secretary, Mr. T. L. Elder, advised the Executive Committee that he would be unable to continue his office as Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. F. C. C. Boyd was appointed acting Secretary-Treasurer by the President.

The subject for the evening, "The Three Interesting Coins, Medals or Paper Money in Your Collection," was then in order.

Mr. Moritz Wormser's exhibit was as follows:

The three pieces shown here have been selected with a view to the news of the moment and the recent history of the World War. The only period of world history comparable to the present is that of the Thirty Years' War, when almost all of Europe was in conflagration and turmoil.

The first coin is a very rare double crown of Gustus Adolphus, the reverse showing the coat of arms of Sweden, within a circle of shields and the small date "1633." The obverse shows the King galloping to the left, and in the background a spirited martial scene; a walled and turreted city and an army with cavalry and artillery outside its walls, probably besieging it. The most interesting feature of the coin is that it gives the King's titles, but was struck and dated a year after his death. Neither the mint nor the artist are known, but the coin is generally regarded as a memorial or medallic one, struck somewhere in Germany by admirers and adherents of the Swedish Protestant hero.

The second coin is likewise interesting in connection with the same period and incidents of history, being the extremely rare crown of Alex Oxenstierna, struck without date, about 1633. This was the shrewd, enlightened and progressive statesman whom Gustavus Adolphus had entrusted with the diplomatic direction of Swedish affairs, and who conducted the ship of state as Swedish Chancellor, or what we might call "Secretary of State" during the life and long after the death of Gustavus Adolphus. The coin shows Oxenstierna's portrait on the obverse and gives among his titles, "Baron," "Knight," "Chancellor," Legate in Germany" and "Director of the Protestant Confederation," all very significant. The coin indicates that he must have been awarded the right of coinage.

Finally the third coin is a Triple Crown of Frederick, Duke of Brunswick Middle Lunesburg, struck in 1647, which you will recall is the year preceding the ending of the great devastation and the Peace of Westphalia, a time when everyone must have been near the point of exhaustion and heartily sick of unceasing warfare. On the obverse is shown the portrait of the Duke, surrounded by a circle of Escutcheons, but the reverse is of greater interest, as it shows an illustration of the Duke's motto—and the sign of the times, "Peace builds up, Strife devastates." It shows a landscape, the left-hand of which depicts a scene of prosperity as farm house, a flock of sheep, and

a mining scene, while the right part of the scene represents all the horrors of war, burned buildings, dried trees and destroyed orchards, such as we may now find everywhere in Northern France and Flanders—truly a prophetic coin!

Mr. Wyman exhibited a Portcullis Half Crown, a bronzed proof 1 48 of a Rupee of the Madras Presidency under the East India Company, dated 1794, and the so-called "pig rupee" of 1911. In regard to these pieces Mr. Wyman said that the first was one of a series coined in 1600 by order of Queen Elizabeth of England at the request of the East India Company, who had petitioned the Queen to be allowed to export to India for purposes of trade the silver Spanish coins then circulating in England and which by law could not be taken out of the country. The merchants had wished to use the Spanish money because they said the natives were already familiar with its appearance. This statement seemed to have touched the Queen's vanity, for she replied that she would issue a special coinage for the purpose so that the people of the East would learn that she was as great a ruler as the King of Spain. The Portcullis pieces, so called from the principal device impressed upon them, were the result. They are very rare.

The second piece was coined at the Soho Mint and is probably a pattern and undoubtedly a mule as its obverse, with the elephant, is found combined with another reverse in a pattern coined at the same mint for Ceylon. This piece is, perhaps, rarer than the former and Mr. Wyman stated that he knew of no other specimen in this country and had only been able to find two offered in London in the last twenty years.

The third exhibit was the first rupee coined for India in the present reign. It shows the bust of George V, wearing the insignia of several orders, among them the Danish Order of the Elephant. Due to a fault in the design, the trunk of the elephant does not show very clearly with the result that the animal looks like a pig.

Dr. Burke exhibited a "First Bronze of Galba" in superb condition.

Mr. David Proskey, eight large silver pieces of "Annam."

Dr. D. W. Valentine, die proof on India paper of a "50c Lincoln Reverse."

Mr. George H, Blake, unusual Silver Certificate sequence of number 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8, also an error in printing on one dollar note, seal and number appears on reverse. A Bank Note of Japan, engraved by the Central Bank Note Company of New York, issued by the Fifth National Bank of Japan, for One Dollar.

Mr. Dudley Butler: Belgium, 1672, 2½ Klippe Thaler, weight 1000 grains, siege Piece of Amsterdam, extremely rare. Utrecht 1656 Klippe Thaler, Dutch East India Company, Crown struck in 1739 for the exclusive use of the Dutch East India Company.

Mr. M. J. de Lagerberg: Silver medal of Hans Hildebrand, the father of the author of the work on Swedish Numismatics, Mr. Elliott Smith, 1883, $20.00 Gold Proof; 1873, $3.00 Gold Piece and Gold Life Saving Medal presented by the President of the United States to foreigners.

The Executive Committee reported that they had decided to hold a Club dinner at the next meeting and requested the members to invite the ladies as guests. Further, that they had requested Mr. Frey to address the

Club, the subject, "My Ten Years as Vice-President of the N. Y. N. Club." They further suggested that the Club strike a medal commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Club. The Nominating Committee reported nominations for 1919 as follows:

President: Albert R. Frey.

Vice-President: Elliott Smith.

Secretary-Treasurer: F. C. C. Boyd.

Executive Committee: Elliott Smith, J. M. Swanson, Howland Wood and Dr. Valentine.

Medallic Art Committee: J. M. Swanson, E. Beesley, A. Heaton, B. L. Belden, J. Sanford Saltus.

Publication Committee: Dr. D. Valentine, Howland Wood and Moritz Wormser.

Membership Committee: D. Proskey, Thomas Elder, Dudley Butler, W. Gedney Beatty and John Reilly, Jr.

Mr. J. Sanford Saltus spoke of the medals which had been issued by the Club and complimented the Club and the sculptor, Mr. J. M. Swanson, on the uniformity of size and design. Mr. Saltus stated that it had recently come to his attention that the King of Italy, Victor Emanuel III, was our first honorary member, and that he would suggest the Club strike a medal to our first honorary member and to present him with one in gold and if the Club favored the suggestion that he would be pleased to defray the expense in making the dies and would present the gold for the presentation medal. Moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Belden, that the Club accept Mr. J. Sanford Saltus' kind offer with a rising vote of thanks. Motion carried. Regularly moved and seconded that a medal be struck in gold and presented to our first honorary member, Victor Emanuel III, in commemoration of our tenth anniversary. Motion carried. Mr. J. Saltus then informed the Club that our member, Mr. J. M. Swanson, would be the designer of the medal. Regularly moved and seconded that the Executive Committee be ordered to strike a medal in commemoration of the tenth anniversary, one bronze medal for each member and two silver medals to be presented to the President and Vice-President. Motion carried.

Mr. Davidson then exhibited a photograph showing the King of Italy shaking hands with his son, L. H. Davidson. The King had just decorated him with the Italian Valor Medal (Militare al Valor).

The President directed the Secretary to send a letter of condolence to Mr. J. Guttag and Mr. Frank Duffield, extending our sympathy in their recent bereavement. Meeting adjourned.

F. C. C. BOYD,
(Acting) Secretary and Treasurer.

Gold And Silver

According to the Bureau of the Mint and Geological Survey, the production of gold in the United States and Philippines for 1917 totaled 4,051,440 ounces, valued at $83,750,700 against $92,590,300 in 1916.

Silver production amounted to 71,740,362 ounces, valued at $59,078,100. The production fell 2,674,000 ounces under 1916 figures.

ARMY AND NAVY DEVICES

Exhibited by the American Numismatic Society

Devices Worn by Men of All Ranks Made Plain to Civilian—Service Stripes and Other Markings.

An exhibition of devices, insignia, and identification marks on the uniforms on the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps is being held by the American Numismatic Society on Broadway, between 155th and 156th streets, New York.

The growth of our armed forces with their many ramifications has brought many new markings denoting the different ranks and branches of the service. In peace times the general public did not bother to learn even the ordinary devices indicating rank or the different branches of the army and navy services. Many persons cannot tell a first-class private from a field clerk or the latter from a commissioned officer.

The exhibition is primarily to acquaint people with all these distinctive marks. It is not necessary to show the entire uniform. The hats or hat cords, and the collar, shoulder, and sleeve ornaments form the chief device for identification, and all of these details are shown with explanatory labels.

A few minutes at the exhibition suffices to show two underlying principles separating the insignia and uniforms of the army from those in the navy. Everything pertaining to the land forces is dull and somber of hue, the object being to make them inconspicuous. The navy, on the other hand, does not have to consider defensive coloration in the uniform of its men. The ship is the target. Consequently, the old navy blue or dazzling white, with the grade markings of gold and red, predominate with our sea fighters.

In the Navy.

In one exhibition are various caps and sleeve markings of the officers of the navy. Other cases show the collar and shoulder insignia, pointing out the difference between a line officer and a staff officer, so that one can easily distinguish the navigating officer of a ship from the paymaster or the surgeon. The devices worn by the enlisted men are shown in detail, so that the merest novice may tell a master-at-arms from a coxswain.

The Marine Corps group is an attractive one. The various caps, symbols, and devices are all on view, whether of the ship marine with his blue uniform or the shore marine clad in his picturesque forestry green.

The olive drab of the army occupies the most space. Overseas caps, sleeve markings, and collar devices of the officer and enlisted man are displayed in their completeness. Here are the devices of the Tank Corps, who "treat 'em rough." The Chemical Corps is distinguished from others by a device showing a benzol ring with two crossed retorts. Aviators, observers, and pilots also have their distinctive insignia. The chevrons of the enlisted men do not appear especially bright, but another case showing the varicolored hat cords makes up for any soberness in this respect.

This war has brought into existence organizations that never existed before. Heretofore if any chemical work was desired, a special officer from the line would be detailed for such work; now the demand for them is on such a large scale that special organizations and units are formed. Machine gun

detachments wear a hat cord part infantry and part artillery; that is to say, the infantry blue hat cord is used with the acorns colored red, the artillery color.

The brassards or arm bands worn by special organizations such as telephone girls in foreign service, stretcher bearers, trench cleaners and military police also help to give a touch of color to the exhibition.

The Service Stripe.

Any soldier who has served six months or more in the war zone is entitled to wear a gold V-striped chevron on the left sleeve. If he has served less than that period he wears a blue V-striped chevron on the same sleeve. A wounded soldier is entitled to wear a gold V-striped chevron on his right sleeve. If he recovers and returns to the battle line and is wounded or gassed a second time, necessitating a stay in hospital, he can wear two gold V-striped chevrons on his right sleeve. Under the regulations, he can wear gold chevrons on his right sleeve in accordance with the number of times he is wounded o rtaken to hospital. Of course, if a soldier is struck by shrapnel and gets eighteen or twenty wounds at one time, he is only entitled to wear one gold V-striped chevron on his right sleeve.

A device desginating generals has been revived, showing the rank of generals on their overcoat sleeves. A brigadier-general wears one gold star on sleeves of his overcoat, a major-general two stars, a lieutenant-general three stars, and a general four stars. So that General Pershing now wears four stars on the sleeves of his overcoat, and is the first general since General Grant's time to do so.

All officers serving aboard ships controlled by the Shipping Board have a distinctive insignia of their own, gilt anchors denoting deck officers and gilt three-bladed propellors denoting engineer officers.

Officers on ships operating in the army transport service wear practically the same marks as those aboard ships controlled by the Shipping Board, only with the addition of the letters "A. T. S." attached.

A full line of insignia worn by the various auxiliaries in war service is also shown, and one of the most interesting in the collection is that worn by members of the Salvation Army. The Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus, and Hebrew Welfare Workers insignia also form an interesting group.

The rewards given to our men, such as the Medal of Honor, the new Distinguished Service Cross, as well as the various campaign badges, with their bright-colored ribbons, are all on view, while the collection of foreign orders and decorations are shown in glass cases. Here one can see the British Order of the Bath and the Order of the Garter as recently conferred on some of our army and navy officers serving abroad.

Chicago Numismatic Association

The November meeting of Branch One, A. N. A., was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Friday evening, November 8, at eight o'clock. The following were present: Messrs. Kelly, Dunham, Leon, Hinckley, Boyer, Lawless, De Cou, Wilson and Davis.

Mr. Davis read a paper on "The Circulating Medium of the Civil War Period," which brought out considerable discussion.

The exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Boyer: $50 note dated March 10, 1863, signed by Chittenden and Spinner, and Vol. 11 of Mehl's Numismatic Monthly.

By Mr. Leon: Patterns of 1 and 2 drachma silver pieces of Greece bearing the laureated head of Constantine, struck in gold, unique in this metal; one and five dollar notes issued by the Town of Cedar Falls, Iowa, in April, 1858, and a five-pound pattern in gold of George IV, with a blank reverse.

By Mr. Wilson: Large Presidential Medal of Van Buren.

By Mr. Dunham: Jewish Shekel of Simon Maccabeus.

Mr. Dunham presented each member present with two tokens, reminiscent of the old Chicago Numismatic Society, and a token of the Illinois Tunnel Company.

The meeting was then adjourned.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society was held Tuesday evening, November 5th, at the home of Mr. H. D. Gibbs. After the transaction of the regular business the English, Spanish and Portuguese section of Mr. Gibbs' foreign collection was on exhibit. At 11 o'clock a lunch was served, after which the meeting was adjourned with a rising vote of thanks to Mr. Gibbs for the pleasant evening enjoyed by all. Members present: Messrs. Boyle, Marlier, Gies, Dr. Wilharm, Van Every, Kraft, and Gibbs. There were also several visitors. Next meeting to be held on Tuesday evening, December 3rd, at the rooms of the Society in the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Subject, "Coins—Their Condition and Classification."

A. C. GIES, Secretary.

Rochester Numismatic Association

The one hundred and fifty-seventh meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association met at the Hotel Rochester on Tuesday, November 5th, 1918, and was called to order by President H. H. Yawger.

Members present: Messrs. Yawger, W. H. Amberg, Hicks, Savage, L. G. Amberg, Plumb, Bauer, Maunovry, Simmonds, Gillette, Koeb, Borradaile, Burling, and Dr. French.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Communications received: Letter from Mr. Wayte Raymond of New York City stating that he had sent a number of price lists to be distributed among the members. Letter from Mr. Waldo C. Moore, of Lewisburg, Ohio, chairman of the Board of Governors of the A. N. A.

Mr. Chas. T. Huber was present as a visitor.

Moved and seconded that the Secretary send a letter of sympathy to our member, Mr. Geo. Haring, on account of the death of his son. Carried.

The members were pleased to welcome Dr. French, who had been ill for several weeks.

Mr. Geo. Bauer, chairman of the Memorial Medal Committee, submitted a number of designs for the proposed Memorial Medal, which was laid on the table to be considered at the next meeting.

Exhibits were as follows: By Mr. Gillette: 1863 gold dollar uncirculated, following patterns numbered by Adams—Woodin 6 half-dollars, Nos. 733, 744, 902, 908, 922, 928, 2 Quarters Nos. 754, 766, 6 Dimes Nos. 774, 775, 780, 781, 786, 787. All being in beautiful proof condition. 1799 Cent, fine. Christophus Columbus and Columbia Medal dated Oct. 21st, 1892, issued for the Chicago Fair commemorating the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus, size 65, light bronze proof. By Mr. L. G. Amberg, 1796 Half Dollar in fine condition.

Meeting adjourned to Tuesday, November 19th, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

Springfield Coin Club

The sixty-ninth meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held in the rooms of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Wednesday evening, November 13th, with President Frazier in the chair. Members present: De St. Guay, Converse, Frazier, Morse, Oliver, Prevost, Stone and Morris. Visitor, Elwell.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved, after which the Treasurer's report was received. Announcement was made that we were not allowed to hold the October meeting because of the prevalence of the epidemic.

It was moved by Stone that in case of the death in the family of a member of the Club that the Governing Board use their judgment about buying flowers. Motion carried.

Deep regrets were expressed at the report of the death of the son of our fellow-member, Mr. Oppenheimer, who was in the United States Navy and who died after a protracted illness.

Upon motion by Stone it was moved that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. Frank G. Duffield, the editor of the Numismatist, because of the death of his daughter and son-in-law.

It was moved by Stone that three members be appointed on a committee of arrangement for the annual meeting of the A. N. A. in Springfield on December 11th. Motion carried, and the President appointed all Past Presidents, i. e., Messrs. Prevost, Oliver, and Pond.

It was moved by Oliver that a suitable letter and flowers be sent our esteemed ex-President, Mr. Preston Pond, who was reported to be recovering from a serious illness. Motion carried.

It was moved by Stone that a nominating committee be appointed to bring in nominations for officers for next year. Said nominations to be presented at the January meeting. Motion carried, and the President appointed all Past President, i. e., Prevost, Oliver and Pond.

The entertainment of the evening consisted of an interesting exhibition, by our fellow-member, Mr. Stone, of siege coins, after which Mr. Stone presented a contest on American coins. The three highest scores being made by Morris 70, Oliver 66 and Converse 63. A vote of thanks was given Mr. Stone for the entertainment, which was much appreciated.

The meeting then adjourned until the second Wednesday in December with the A. N. A.

A. W. MORRIS, Secretary.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States, 50 cents a year; Canada and Foreign $1.00

Vol. X. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, JANUARY, 1919 No. 1

With The Editor

President Wilson Gets a Gold Medal.

Before leaving Washington for France, officials of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith presented to President Wilson the gold medal awarded him by the society last October as the man who had rendered the most distinguished service to humanity during the past year.

During his travels in Europe, the President will doubtless receive many medals, and will have a most valuable and historical collection to bring with him when he returns to this country.

Hun Money Banned in France.

The French Government has issued a decree prohibiting the importation of German bank notes, coins, or any other monetary medium into France.

Sir Arthur Currie Gets a Medal.

Before leaving Mons, which the Canadians captured just before the armistice was signed, Sir Arthur Currie, the commander of the Canadian Corps, was presented by the city with a medal in gold specially struck in his honor and inscribed as a souvenir of the liberation of the city by the Canadian Corps. Replicas will be distributed among the troops who participated.

Ten New Nations—Ten New Sisters.

The United States has ten new little sisters—and will be expected to act as a big sister towards them, and she may have her hands full. It is said that at least ten new States will be represented in the diplomatic circles of the principal governments of the world when peace is made permanent. Three more will be added to the ten if Bavaria, Wurtemberg and Saxony establish separate governments. The ten now assured as a result of the war are: Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Esthonia, Livonia, Finland, Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia, Armenia and the Ukraine.

These new States will doubtless each have its own national coinage. As their hands are not tied with tradition and red tape, we may look forward to some interesting types.